



CALENDAR

Mar 4	Board Meeting
Mar 18	Chapter Meeting
Apr 1	Board Meeting
Apr 15	Chapter Meeting
May 6	Board Meeting
May 20	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 newsletter is: **“What native plants do you grow specifically for their fragrance in your garden?”**

Katie Newman: “I grow San Miguel savory (*Clinopodium chandleri*) for the minty, floral, herbaceous smell. It grows well in my full shade garden

and I often pick the leaves to use in herbal tea during the winter and cocktails in the summer. The leaves are soft so I often run my hand over the ground cover when in need of some aromatherapy. It’s an instant mood enhancer.”

Mary Arambula: “Simply put, Sages (*Salvia*) and Sagebrush, especially *Artemisia californica!*”

Melissa Adyilia Calasanz: “Though I have many multisensory aromatic CalNatives growing in my garden, my top three are: *Artemisia tridentate* (Great Basin Sage), *Salvia apiana* (White Sage), and *Condea emoryi* (Desert Lavender). I adore these plants for their beauty and as examples of resilience in my full sun, hard clay Anaheim garden. I use them when teaching mindfulness workshops, for making floral arrangements, gifts, and wreaths. I often use a leaf or small trimming as a bookmark; and the cultural and environmental significance of each adds another layer once their fragrance and beauty ignites conversation.”

Antonio Sanchez: “I love using *Lepechinia fragrans* and Hummingbird Sage together, whether in a larger container like a wine barrel or in a light shade area of the garden, they make you want to touch them both to figure out which one is better. (Answer: the Hummingbird sage.)”

J. Mark Sugars “This is an easy one: *Salvia apiana*; *Salvia mellifera*; *Salvia clevelandii*; *Rosa californica.*”

Rama Nayeri: “My favorite to use in my own or anyone’s garden is Cleveland Sage. There’s just something about the smell that I love so much.”

Amy Litton: “I have 3 salvias in my garden, all out front—White, Black, & Cleveland. The Cleveland has the “prettiest” fragrance, but the white sage is my favorite. We also have hedge nettle and Evergreen currant in our garden. A sweet fragrance from our natives is a bonus & I always recommend them to people wanting ideas for their gardens.”

Jake Hoffman: “I have a few Ceanothus plants in my front yard, mostly Ceanothus maritimus varieties that are in full bloom right now and loaded with bees. Their pleasant fragrance is a hint that spring will be here soon. I also have various sages which are always nice to brush up against when you are working in the garden.”

Linda Southwell: “Some of my favorite native plants for fragrance are Coyote Mint (*Monardella* sp.), and any of the many Cleveland and other Sage plants. I also love Desert Lavender (*Condea emoryi*), and Great Basin Sagebrush, (*Artemisia tridentata*). These two are heat loving and look good year round.”

Tina Cremer: “I like the smell of Cleveland Sages but do not like the smell of White Sage. I’ll be looking forward to reading about what other people think are the best-smelling natives.”

Laura Camp: “Cleveland sage of course, and I just purchased a new *Lepechinia fragrans* (pitcher sage) plant because I LOVE to touch and smell those leaves!”

Orchid Black: “Fragrant Pitcher Sage, *Lepechinia fragrans*, is my favorite fragrance, followed by the Coyotemints, *Monardella* sp. and Rose Sage, *Salvia pachyphylla*. I grow the Rose Sage and the Monardella, but sadly, gardening at elevation means no *Lepechinia*. Cynthia Smith who gardens in the Puente Hills, uses the *Lepechinia* to make tasty ‘kale’ chips.”

Dan Songster: “There are many wonderful smells among our natives and my nose is drawn to many at different times of the year, but currently the twin scents of *Ribes malvaceum* (Chaparral Currant) and *Lepechinia fragrans* (Fragrant Pitcher Sage) leaves are my favorites. Their unusual fragrance is almost unlike anything else. The *Lepechinia* has a pleasing fruity-spicy aroma with maybe a touch of cloves (a bit too pungent for some), and I agree with a long ago friend who said that the smell of chaparral currant was like a mix of horse-sweat and pineapple—interesting!”

Final Note: Former chapter president Mike Lindsay used to pick a sprig of *Artemisia californica* (California Sagebrush) during field trips and tuck it in his shirt pocket so he would have that signature smell with him all day long and that is certainly a wonderful herbal fragrance and a great way to extend a journey in the wild!

Our question for the next newsletter: **“Which weeds give you the most trouble in your garden and how do you handle them?”**

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

TWO O’NEILL GRANTS AWARDED

Daniel Donovan is awarded \$1000 for his project, *Vascular Flora of the Pleasants Peak Area of the Santa Ana Mountains, California*.

Daniel is a graduate student at California State University, Long Beach, studying botany in Dr. Amanda Fisher’s lab. His curiosity just got to be too much after many hundreds of hours working on trails as a Cleveland National Forest volunteer and with the Sierra Club. He has backpacked all over the West Coast, and for many years, he was a copy editor at the Los Angeles Times. Daniel is committed to the study and conservation of California’s plants and plant communities.

Daniel’s project is to document the vascular plant taxa of the Pleasants Peak area, including the three forks of Ladd Canyon. The area has been understudied because it lacks official trails. A 1973 study investigated the knobcone pine stands near the peak, which are associated with the only serpentine outcrops in the Santa Anas. The study emphasized the importance of topography that funnels coastal fog through the area, describing how the knobcone’s needles capture moisture and drip water to its roots. The area is also interesting in that most of it has not burned since the 1948 Green River fire, and some of it has had no recorded fire. By collecting herbarium specimens and creating a checklist for the Pleasants Peak area, Daniel hopes to be able to address questions of how soil, microclimate, a long interval without fire, and relatively low human disturbance have affected the area’s plant diversity.

Keir Morse is awarded \$500 for his project, *Systematics and conservation of the genus Malacothamnus (Malvaceae)*

Award \$500

Keir is a PhD candidate at California Botanic Garden / Claremont Graduate University where he is working on the systematics of the genus *Malacothamnus*(the bushmallows). Keir is an avid field botanist who spends much of his free time mapping and photographing plants to better document where they are growing and how to distinguish them. He currently has over 38,000 diagnostic photos of over 3000 plant taxa posted to Calphotos. Keir is also concerned about plant conservation. His research in *Malacothamnus*, which has several conflicting treatments and 16 CRPR ranked taxa, will greatly clarify the taxon boundaries within the genus, facilitating a much-improved understanding of which taxa are of most conservation concern and how to distinguish them from the more common taxa.

ACORN GRANT AWARDED

Joel Robinson of Naturalist For You has received a \$400 Acorn Grant to plant trees on the campus of the Linda Vista Elementary School in Orange. The trees have been ordered and Joel looks forward to getting them installed. He hopes to expand upon these initial plantings with native plants in other areas of the campus.

"I don't like a flower that stands at attention. Flowers should look as though they were on a marvelous outing."

-Robert L. Green

CHAPTER MEETINGS



Thursday, March 18: Stories and images of some early Southern California plant collectors

Speaker: Dr. Gary D. Wallace

Many people have had impacts on our knowledge and appreciation of the flora of Southern California, some well-known, some less so. The activities, experiences, training, (and original occupations) of some of these people were often quite different

from the talents we know them for, as plant collectors and explorers. None could have known what aspects of their lives or works could or would stand out to us now. Dr. Wallace will touch on why they collected plants, what they collected, what happened to their collections and in some cases the impact of those collections. It is likely that other tidbits of information will be mentioned as they come to mind.

Dr. Gary D. Wallace, a botanist with nearly five decades of experience, currently serves as a Research Associate with California Botanic Garden. He worked for over 18 years at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service retiring 6 years ago. While there he worked on federal listings of plants and taxonomic issues for plants and animals, contributing to the conservation of many plant taxa, including Coachella Valley milk-vetch, Peirson's milk-vetch, ash-gray paintbrush, southern mountains wild buckwheat, willowy monardella, San Clemente Island lotus, and San Clemente Island paintbrush. He has a special interest in the Ericaceae, especially the mycoparasitic Monotropoideae (Snow plant relatives.) He contributed to both editions of the Jepson Manual and the Flora of North America (FNA) project. Currently he is a regional reviewer for the FNA. Twice a President of the Southern California Botanists, he recently completed an article on their history that appeared in *Crossosoma*, and an article on the Irish botanist Thomas Coulter (of Coulter pine fame) printed in *Aliso*, the journal of the California Botanic Garden..

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.

Register in advance for the March meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYrcu6tqz4uHNcBbSxzo7QxQkoXjiv5jQso>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the meeting.



Thursday, April 15: Plant for Birds: Using Native California Plants to Create Habitat at Home

Speaker: Scot Pipkin

For many of us, gardens are more than places to grow food or pretty flowers. If we want to create rich, diverse, and resilient habitats in our yards and communities, we have to start with the appropriate native plants. They provide an opportunity to attract a variety of local wildlife and cultivate healthy natural systems. One of the best indicators of a successful habitat garden is the bird life it attracts. In this talk, we will look at the important role

native plants play in providing our local birds with the food, shelter, and nesting materials necessary for survival. We will also examine how the use of native plants and fundamental design principles can contribute to a sense of sanctuary and well-being for the people in our garden spaces. Taking a deep dive into the major food groups birds need (fruits, seeds, insects, and nectar), Scot will provide a list of over twenty native California species that are readily available and will be sure to enhance the habitat quality of your garden.

Scot Pipkin is Director of Education and Engagement at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and was born and raised in San Diego, California. After attending UCLA and receiving a degree in Geography with an emphasis in biogeography, he has spent his career acquiring and sharing an understanding of the natural world that emphasizes the interconnections that surround us. This work has allowed him to work in some of the most beautiful and ecologically rich places in the Southwest, including Yosemite, the redwoods of the San Mateo Coast, Tejon Ranch, Saguaro National Park in Arizona, and the Lincoln National Forest in New Mexico. Along the way, he received a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Arizona and spent countless hours identifying plants/birds/butterflies and anything else he encounters outdoors.

Registration for this meeting will be sent out in the week of the meeting and posted at occnps.org.

A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO IDENTIFYING WILLOWS IN ORANGE COUNTY

—Ron Vanderhoff

Willows (*Salix* species) are among the most ubiquitous plants in Orange County, growing from the coast to the mountains and usually near the places many of us live and also like to visit. Our native willows are well adapted to many urban niches, so there is a good chance that there are a few growing somewhere within walking distance of where you live. Yet, despite their abundance, this is a group of plants that many still just call “willows”. Let’s take a look at the native willows that occur in Orange County and learn some easy methods to identify them accurately.

We begin with a bit of a cheat. Of the approximately 450 willows in the world and 30 or 31 in California, we only have five confirmed species native in Orange County. Rarely, one might encounter a non-native weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*), but it’s unlikely, so let’s just differentiate our five Orange County species.

Our Orange County willows:

Narrow-leaved or sandbar willow, *Salix exigua*

Black or Goodding’s willow, *Salix gooddingii*

Pacific or shining willow, *Salix lasiandra*

Red willow, *Salix laevigata*

Arroyo willow, *Salix lasiolepis*

Here are two identification methods, which can usually be used at any season.

1. Leaf Color and Outline

The first character most people will look at is the leaf color. Is it **monocolorous**, meaning essentially the same color on the top and bottom surface? If it is, you have one of two species, **narrow-leaved** or **black willow**. Narrow-leaved willow is quite different than any other willow, with very narrow silvery grey, hairy leaves. Meanwhile mature black willow foliage is green, top and bottom, and very few hairs.

Wasn’t that easy? You have already identified two of our five species.

2. Leaf Buds

But, if the leaves are **concolorous**, meaning different colors on the top and bottom, it must be one of the three remaining species. Look at the leaf outline. In general, are the **leaves as wide or even slightly wider toward the tip end**? If so, you have our most common species, **arroyo willow**.

You now only have two species left, red willow and pacific willow. Are the **leaves strongly tapered** to a long, narrow and acute tip. If so, it is a **red willow**. Finally, if the leaf is very large and not tapered to a long thin point, you have a **pacific willow**, our least common species. **See Plate 1**

If you want to confirm your identification using a third method you will be looking at the dormant buds at the leaf axils, usually called **bud scales**. These are present most months and usually quite noticeable. If these buds are **clearly pointed**, you have either **black willow or red willow**. A quick look at a few leaves will easily distinguish these two. **See Plate 2**

If the buds are **more rounded** on their tips then you have **narrow-leaved, pacific or arroyo willow**. Again, a quick glance at a few leaves will quickly separate these species.

PLATE 1

Easily Confused Orange County Willows (*Salix*)

Leaves (Top: left, Under: right)



S. exigua
Narrow-leaved

S. gooddingii
Black

S. lasiandra
Pacific

S. laevigata
Red

S. lasiolepis
Arroyo

PLATE 2

Easily Confused Orange County Willows (*Salix*)

Bud Scales (leaves and stipules removed)



S. exigua
Narrow-leaved

S. gooddingii
Black

S. lasiandra
Pacific

S. laevigata
Red

S. lasiolepis
Arroyo

**TREE OF LIFE NURSERY PRESENTS:
CNPS SPONSORSHIP WEEK
Monday, April 19 – Saturday, April 24
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**

In celebration of state-wide Native Plant Week, Tree of Life Nursery will support our local CNPS chapters that have been unable to hold their traditional fall plant sales, or have had to modify them, due to COVID 19 this year.

During this week all CNPS members will receive their normal 10% discount at the nursery and 10% of the proceeds from all plant sales will be divided among our local CNPS chapters.

Our retail plant nursery features wide paths with plenty of room for everyone to practice social distancing. Facemasks are currently required for all shoppers as well as employees.

Tree of Life Nursery
33201 Ortega Highway,
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
californianativeplants.com



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PlantRight works with California's nursery industry to keep invasive plants off our landscapes and to promote the sale of exclusively non-invasive alternatives. The survey is a data collection effort to track California's retail market for invasive garden plants

Participation in the 2021 Spring Nursery Survey is easy, educational, and fun! Register to volunteer on our website (PlantRight.org).

To conduct survey volunteers will:

1. Sign up to survey a store in their county
2. Download required survey materials
3. Visit the store (following COVID-19 safety protocols) and record information about invasive plants
4. Submit information to PlantRight

The survey will be open for the following dates:
March 8-June 30, 2021

The survey process takes about 2.5 hours to complete. Volunteers can get started by creating an account and RSVP'ing to participate on our website. After completing the short training, you will have access to the survey materials.

"I have one share in corporate Earth, and I am nervous about the management."
-E. B. White

BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEES**OFFICERS:**

President Brad Jenkins jenkinsbradc@gmail.com
Vice-president Ron Vanderhoff ronv@rogersgardens.com
Secretary Sarah Jayne Sbjayne@cox.net
Treasurer Lewis Marchand
Chapter Council Dave Pryor davidpryor@gmail.com

AT LARGE:

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Administration

Membership: Elizabeth Wallace
 Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster
 Luminate Admin: Sarah Jayne
 Book Inventory: Brad Jenkins
 Poster Inventory: Dan Songster

Communications Committee

Communications Coordinator: OPEN
 Newsletter: Sarah Jayne
 Email News: Sarah Jayne
 Social Media: Elizabeth Wallace, Ron Vanderhoff, Laura Camp
 Website: Rich Schilk, Brad Jenkins

Conservation Committee (Protect OC)

Chair: Matt Garrambone
 Conservation Advocate Analyst: OPEN
 Emergent Invasive Plants Team
 Lead: Ron Vanderhoff, Josie Bennett
 Members: Erin Andreatta, Matt Major, Joan Miller, David Pryor, Dan Songster,

Gardening Committee

Chair: Dan Songster
 Acorn Grant: Sarah Jayne, Open position, Board reviews
 Homeowner Associations: Elizabeth Wallace

Garden Tour:

Lead: Sarah Jayne, Terri LePage
 Members: Mabel Alazard, Jennifer Beatty, Dori Ito

Plant Science Committee

Chair: Ron Vanderhoff
 Field Trip Team
 Lead: Jonathan Frank
 Members: Diane Etchison, Ron Vanderhoff, Kent Henry, Robin Huber, Emile Fiesler
 O'Neill Grant Team
 Lead: Matt Garrambone
 Members: Kevin Alison, Greg Vose, Sunny Saroa
 Rare Plant Team: Bob Allen, Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff

Public Events

Scheduler Coordinator: OPEN
 Monthly Meeting Program: Dan Songster
 Tech: Brad Jenkins, Bob Allen
 Hospitality: Sarah Jayne
 Welcome Table: Dori Ito
 Volunteer Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley
 Sales: Jennifer Mabley
 Equipment Supplies: Brad Jenkins

Chapter Communication Coordinator—Volunteer Position Posting

Our productive, active chapter needs a person to organize media connections to members and the public. Activities involved will grow as social opportunities increase later this year. Having an appreciation for plants (nature), places, and people will make this activity enjoyable for all involved.

Role

1. Assist with creating messaging and content presentation for event advertising, education, recognition, news, etc.
2. Coordinate media release dates.
3. Work with fellow communication volunteers who are responsible for the Newsletter, Email news, website, social media, graphic displays.
4. Work with chapter program and project leaders in gardening, conservation, plant science, etc.

For the full role posting, visit our website at occnps.org.