

# CNPS

ORANGE  
COUNTY  
CHAPTER

California Native Plant Society

occnps.org

May/June 2021

## Native Gardeners 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 edition is: **"Which weeds give you the most trouble in your native garden and how do you handle them?"**

**Brad Jenkins:** "Weeds were a problem during the first years of converting the yard to habitat plants, especially the first attempt at a Carex meadow. Now natives cover much of the ground. This environment competes well against weeds. Occasional hand pulling is all that is needed (including spring reduction of prolific native Lacy Phacelia.)"

**Ron Vanderhoff:** "Number one is Upright Veldt Grass (*Ehrharta erecta*) that gets my nod. It's an upright open perennial grass that seems to seed everywhere, sun or shade. And because it is shade tolerant it sprouts under the canopies and within the branches of shrubs and even low groundcovers. Not a fan. My second choice would be Yellow Nutsedge, usually called Nutgrass (*Cyperus esculentus*). All gardeners know this guy. Believe it or not, it's a CA native, but quite a challenge in a garden. I think I've finally rid myself of it."

**Christiane Shannon:** "I don't really have too much of a problem because I stay on top of the job, picking some weeds almost every day. Just to mention a few, some exotic grasses, wild lettuce, spurge, wild asparagus are regular pests. In addition, where there is sufficient space to safely spray without touching other plants, I use Dr. Earth, that I buy at the Home Depot. It is a mixture of six vegetal oils. It works very well for me."

**John Gossett:** "There are many wonderful mallows in California, but cheeseweed, *Malva parvifolia*, is a relentless invader that has to be hand-pulled fast, or I'll need a machete to get through the forest! Grasses that keep coming back from the lawns of long ago are an unwelcome gift that keeps on giving, and just as hard as to pull. Henbit is everywhere, but easy to pull, and if some escapes, the tiny purple flowers are charming and reportedly liked by hummingbirds."

**Orchid Black:** "In my clients' gardens, *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Bermuda Buttercup), and *Ehrharta* sp (Veldt Grass). The oxalis can be managed by slicing the stem at the ground or pinching the stem if there are few. Pulling it distributes the bulblets, and digging up the bulblets causes too much soil disturbance. So we basically harass it and deny it the opportunity to photosynthesize. The *Ehrharta* can be pulled but must be done frequently since it can reseed in 6 weeks. People think it's no problem because it's easy to pull, and then become overwhelmed. On a large property we had to use pre-emergent on it, the labor would have been prohibitive. For Bermuda grass, we smother with cardboard and mulch."

**Leon Baginski:** "They all do!! Hand picking is the only way. Get after them early and often and of course don't let them set seed."

**Dan Songster:** "There are many weeds (especially annuals) that are troublesome in the garden but easily hand pulled, hoed, torched, or smothered with top dressing (mulch). Hopefully those are the type of weed you have. The WEEDS I have trouble with are what I call Super-Weeds. They often grow by stolon (like Bermuda), a bulblet/corm structure like Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*) and various nutgrass, or a very deep and vigorous tuber-like root like Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*). I either use glyphosate (wipe on if it is among other desired plants) or in the case of nutgrass a product designed for it. (I have tried pulling these for years and they still come up.) For those who do not want to utilize chemistry in controlling these Super-Weeds, unending patience, persistence, and a form of hope, are required."

**Our Question for the Next Newsletter:** "What mulch or top dressing types do you prefer using in your native garden; which do you avoid, and why?" E-mail 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, May 20: Western Monarchs in danger—understanding and supporting California’s most iconic butterfly.**

**Speaker: Stephanie McKnight**



The Monarch Butterfly is an incredible species with a unique natural history. However, populations of this charismatic butterfly have plummeted in recent years due to many factors. Understanding the plight of one of the most iconic insects in the world could help us save it.

The western migratory population of monarchs is at an all-time low, with numbers that are a tiny fraction of the millions of monarchs that likely visited overwintering sites in the 1980s and the hundreds of thousands of monarchs that graced California’s coast as recently as the mid-2010s. Be informed about the current status of monarch populations, their overwintering numbers, Endangered Species status, and examine several of the threats effecting our Monarch population. Also, there will be a focus on best practices for protecting and improving habitat for monarch butterflies in Southern California—things we can do to help!

**Stephanie McKnight** is a Conservation Biologist with The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. She works on the western population of monarch butterflies including development of best management practices for monarchs and pollinators on public land and

research into monarch distribution and breeding phenology across western states. Stephanie completed a bachelor's of science in botany at Oregon State University. Prior to her present position, she worked as a botanist with the U.S. Forest Service in California and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Oregon. She has conducted four years of monarch and milkweed surveys in the western US and also coordinates the annual Western Monarch Thanksgiving and New Year's Counts. She also manages the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper.

**Thursday, June 17: Greetings from Tilden Botanic Garden! Suggestions for growing a more diverse palette of native plants**

**Speaker: Bart O'Brien**



Would you like to add something a bit out of the ordinary to your native garden? Perhaps some lovely plant you have read about or even seen in nature but wondered if it would grow in a garden? Tilden Botanic Garden’s long history of successful propagation and growing of a wide diversity of field-collected California native plants makes it a great source of horticultural information and ideas! Bart O'Brien, the garden’s director oversees the rich assemblage of natives found at the Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills. He will provide numerous examples of unusual and underused native plants for use in your own garden should you be so bold. From *Arctostaphylos* to *Clarkia*, *Cneoridium*, *Delphinium*, *Dodecatheon* (*Primula*...), *Epilobium*, *Erythronium*, *Glossopetalon*, *Fraxinus*, *Fritillaria*, *Lilium*, *Moranotheramnus*, *Mortonia*, *Penstemon*, *Salvia*, *Silene*, and more—there’s something for everyone!

A fifth generation Californian, Bart O'Brien is an authority on the flora of California and northwestern Baja California, Mexico. He is also an accomplished collector, grower,

photographer, lecturer, and author. Bart received his undergraduate degree in environmental planning and management from UC Davis and a master’s degree in landscape architecture from Harvard University. In March of 2018 he was named a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society. Of course, many of us from southern California know Bart from his very busy and productive 24 years at Rancho Santa Botanic Garden (now California Native Garden) as director of everything related to horticulture and curator of the Living Collection. He assumed his present position in late 2013.

Mr. O'Brien is also familiar to us as a co-author of *California Native Plants for the Garden* and the *bilingual Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens* (now out of print). Currently he is putting the finishing touches on a complete listing of over 300 cultivars of manzanitas (*Arctostaphylos*) for an upcoming issue of *The Four Seasons*, the technical journal of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden. He is also lead author of two upcoming major contributions on the flora of northwestern Baja California, Mexico, that are expected to be published soon, and he is coauthor of *Plant Diversity and Endemism in the California Floristic Province* (*Madroño* 63(2): 3-206. 2016.)—the first full enumeration of the entire flora of the California Floristic Province from southwestern Oregon to northwestern Baja California, Mexico.

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in July and August. Currently, meetings are held remotely. Instructions for joining the meeting on ZOOM will appear on our website, occnps.org, and be sent out by email the week of the meeting.

GROWING A BUTTERFLY GARDEN

—Elizabeth Wallace



This butterfly garden in Trabuco Canyon is located on the grounds of a 12-acre sanctuary for women who have survived human trafficking and homelessness.

Begun in early 2019, the landscape is being rehabilitated by volunteer gardeners, neighbors, and helpers from OCCNPS and the

surrounding community.

The "before" photo below shows the area planned for the garden—a vacant lot between two homes with compacted clay soil, black mustard, ice plant, and a *Quercus agrifolia* that was staked for 20 years and girdled with wire. Two storage units sat at the back of the lot, and a white wrought-iron fence enclosed the adjacent backyard.



Before

In Fall of 2019, the fence was removed, the storage units were emptied and relocated, and a Concept Plan for the butterfly garden was created. Construction began in January 2020 when boulders and a couple truckloads of soil were delivered to the site.



Work continued into Spring with the placement of a willow archway at the entrance of the garden, setting of boulders and construction of DG paths. A three-tiered fountain and MP rotator sprinklers were installed.

Elizabeth and Jeff Wallace, Jonathan Frank, and Brad Jenkins created a planting palette for the site, with help from Kris Ethington.

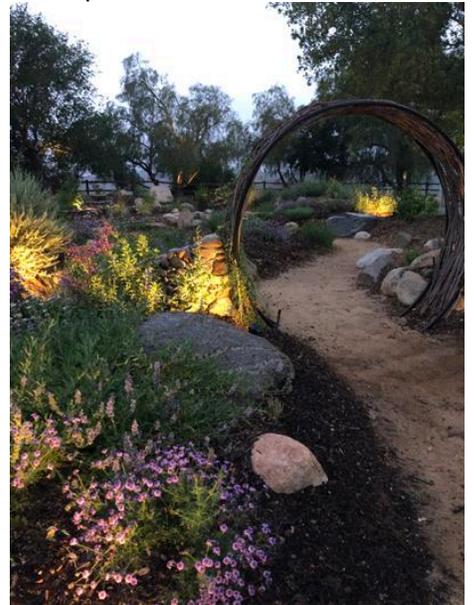
At last—plants! In October, volunteers dug

holes in preparation for planting more than 400 one-gallon plants plus

several 15-gallon oaks, sycamores, and redbud trees. Netting and fencing

were used to protect them from deer predation until winter rains began. Mulch was added. In November, volunteers broadcast poppies and lupine seed before winter rains.

April 2021: The butterfly garden is thriving. Bird life has returned, pollinators are enjoying the flowers, and the residents are enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Low lighting was recently installed to



open the garden for use in the evening.

This beautiful garden would not exist without the faithful crew of volunteers who maintain the garden and are planning future California native plant installations site wide.

## Caspers Wilderness Park Vascular Plant Checklist

### A Project of the UCI Herbarium

Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park is Orange County's largest park, including over 8,000 acres of protected open space, hundreds of miles of trails, and picnic and camping opportunities. More importantly, especially to the native plant community, Caspers Park is home to a large array of habitats that support a high diversity of plant species.

In the Spring of 2020, Mike Simpson and Rebecca Crowe went for a hike at Caspers Park to enjoy the bloom and get reacquainted with the names and distinctions between plants. To prepare for the hike, and get an idea of what plants might be found, they searched out herbarium records, existing plant lists, and other plant observations and were surprised to find that a comprehensive baseline survey of plants had not been completed for Orange County's beloved park.

Around the same time, Bob Allen was rallying a group of undergraduate students eager to get to know plants better through field studies. This group, dubbed Bug Bob's Flying Circus, zeroed in on Caspers Park as an area of interest. Ron Vanderhoff, the Chair of the Plant Science team for OCCNPS and an avid field observer, also joined the team.

The groups combined their efforts and initiated an ambitious project to document and tabulate all the vascular plant taxa present at the park. When complete, the checklist will include cited documentation from herbarium vouchers (collections) and be supported by additional observations from iNaturalist and Calflora.

The project is a collaborative effort led by Rebecca Crowe (UC Irvine Herbarium Collections Manager), with assistance from Dr. Michael Simpson (Professor Emeritus and Herbarium Curator, San Diego State University) and Ron Vanderhoff (OCCNPS Plant Science).

To get the project started an initial query was conducted to compile all existing documentation of the park's flora and to understand the scope and needs for future collecting and documenting. Records were compiled from the California Consortium of Herbaria (CCH2), iNaturalist and Calflora. Local botanists were then queried for additional unpublished records or observations from the park. Documented records were subsequently quality-checked, and several were either appended or rejected as needed. Many early collections at the park were poorly geo-referenced and required additional research and geographic updating.

Being a vouchered checklist, our objective has been to visit as much of the park as possible and collect herbarium samples to support every taxon. From the beginning, Ron Slimm, the Supervising Ranger at Caspers, has been very supportive of our project. Ron has allowed nearly unlimited access to the park, including closed areas, as well as access

through locked gates, making our work more thorough and complete. The team was granted permission to take small samples of plants to serve as vouchers, or evidence, that the plant was indeed found at the park. These vouchers will be curated, permanently housed, and made available for reference at the UCI Herbarium (internationally registered as IRVC).

Beginning in May 2020, additional botanical experts, including Fred Roberts, Kyle Gunther, James Bailey, and Emile Fiesler joined the team and began regularly botanizing the park to scout for, collect, record, and ultimately build the checklist. Unfortunately, our field visits began just as the Covid pandemic was shutting down most social contact. Our second challenge arose when the winter of 2020-21 presented one of lowest rainfall totals on record. Nonetheless, we continued our field work, usually separately, and have made several discoveries.

Over the past year the team has logged dozens of visits and walked hundreds of miles, from the campground areas to the most remote canyons. Most habitats at the park have been visited and sampled, including chaparral and sage scrub ridges, clay mesas, oak woodlands, native and non-native grasslands, moist riparian creeks, and dry washes throughout. There is still much left to visit and certainly several more species to be added to the checklist.

Our working checklist is maintained and updated regularly on the CCH2 website as the **Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park Vascular Plant Checklist**. A **second checklist** of doubtful records or records with incomplete documentation is maintained separately. We also initiated an **iNaturalist project for Caspers**. The iNaturalist observations constitute a photographic documentation of plants, supplementing our herbarium specimen documentation. All iNaturalist observations, and some CalFlora observations, are linked to the CCH2 checklist. We encourage you to review our work. On these websites, users can see the cumulative mapped distribution and collection details of all the geo-referenced herbarium vouchers by clicking the Voucher Mapping icons below the right-side menu.

As of this writing, the checklist contains a robust 529 plant species, covering 92 families and 333 genera at the park. Each species represented on the checklist includes the name of the collector, collection number, the herbarium housing the voucher and other details specific to that record. Each also contains links to the original documentation, where more details can be seen, such as the gps point, habitat, associated species, elevation, abundance and so on. The checklist also includes information about each plants' nativity at the park: Native, Naturalized, Waif or Persisting

from Cultivation. Finally, if the taxon has a CA Rare Plant Ranking or other conservation status, this information is also included, as well as other occasional taxonomic annotations.

Over the next several months we will continue visiting and documenting the flora and the checklist will continue to grow. Several species we know of at the park have not yet been collected, as we wait for flowering. Others, such as those only known from historic records, will continue to be searched for.

OCCNPS members can help. Anyone with specific knowledge of plants not represented on the checklist is encouraged to email any of us with those details – your help is very much appreciated and will be acknowledged.

During the Spring of 2022 we hope to conduct one or more botanical BioBlitz events at the park. If so, we will split the

park into several geographic sections, organize teams for each section and, using iNaturalist and limited collecting by team leaders, document as much of the flora of the park as possible, all in a single day. We anticipate that several OCCNPS members will be interested in participating in the BioBlitz events. Any announcement of a Caspers Park BioBlitz will be included in this newsletter.

When complete, this checklist will be a high-quality resource for researchers, conservationists and OCParks and will further our understanding of the important botanical resources at Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park.

Rebecca Crowe, rcrowe@uci.edu

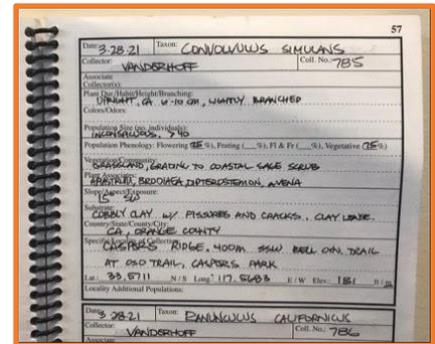
Michael Simpson, msimpson@sdsu.edu

Ron Vanderhoff, rareplants@ocnps.org

OUR PROCESS:



Next is to place our sample into a field press, and record the Collection number.



Field notes are then taken about details, such as the taxon name, collection number, date, gps coordinates, plant associates, soil, phenology, abundance, etc.



Our checklist begins by finding plants. Here, Small-flowered morning glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), CA Rare Plant Rank 4.2 on a clay ridge.



Finally, each collection is mounted, labelled, catalogued and placed in to long term storage.



The collections are then transferred to a standard field press and thoroughly dried. Then, the collections are brought to the UC Irvine Herbarium for processing.

2021 apr 23

scritch scritch my boots sing  
 as sand squishes with each sinking step  
 going to the desert for wildflower viewing is a  
 gamble  
 this year april 23 is much too late  
 grass not ankle high is weathered straw  
 a memory of what was  
 perky yellow blooms of creosote bush  
 are now tiny fluffy globes  
 encelia is leafless & buckwheat is a creative  
 sculpture  
 spring must have been brief  
 i am late  
 spring has sprung

Indio California  
 Creosote Bush, *Larrea tridentata*  
*Encelia farinosa*, Brittlebush  
 Buckwheat, Desert Trumpet,  
*Eriogonum inflatum*

2021 apr 23

desert search for wildflowers  
 spring time roulette  
 sometimes jackpot  
 sometimes not  
 this year april  
 skeletons of brittle cellulose  
 tells you that life has left  
 seeds scattered far & wide  
 wait for another year  
 a wet year  
 desert wildflowers will reappear &  
 i will too

Indio, California

Wiki:

cellulose | 'selyə,lōs, 'selyə,lōz |  
 noun

1 an insoluble substance which is the main constituent of plant cell walls and of vegetable fibers such as cotton. It is a polysaccharide consisting of chains of glucose monomers.

chuck wright

**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* Lewis Marchand  
*Chapter Council* Dave Pryor [davidpryor@gmail.com](mailto:davidpryor@gmail.com)

**AT LARGE**

Kevin Alison  
 Laura Camp [campsjc@mac.com](mailto:campsjc@mac.com)  
 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)

**Administration**

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

**Communications Committee**

Communications Coordinator: Gabriel Verduzco  
 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, Elizabeth Wallace  
 Welcome Table: Dori Ito  
 Volunteer Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley  
 Sales: Jennifer Mabley  
 Equipment Supplies: Brad Jenkins