



CALENDAR

- May 5 Board Meeting
- May 15 Field Trip
- May 15 Audubon special program
- May 19 Chapter Meeting
- May 22 Field Trip
- June 2 Board Meeting
- June 19 Outdoor gathering!

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: **“As Summer approaches, which native plants do you love for their late spring and early summer flowers (or other interesting features)?”**

Terry LePage: “California fuchsias were slow to establish in my garden. But now they pop up all over and bloom profusely in summer and early fall, pleasing the local hummingbirds. Baja Fairy Duster blooms 12 month a year with monthly water, also a hummingbird magnet.”

Elizabeth Wallace: “I love Coffeeberry because it is an insect skyscraper when it blooms.”



Orchid Black: “Salvias are my favorite for late spring and early summer. *Salvia mellifera* and *S. apiana* were in full bloom in the 600 acre alluvial scrub of the Santa Fe Dam last Sunday when San Gabriel Mtns. Chapter visited.”

Leon Baginski: “This time of year you can’t go wrong with Hooker’s Evening Primrose (*Oenothera elata*). The flowers are just starting to open and who could not love the huge bright yellow beauties. They will continue to bloom for the next month or two. Gorgeous!!!”



Linda Southwell: “In late spring, as we move towards summer, I love the flowers on my Desert Willows, the flowers and smell of my native mint plants, and the abundance of

flowers from the mallows—De La Luna, and San Clemente Bush Mallow. I love this season of the buckwheats, especially Santa Cruz Island and Conejo, for their flowers, changes in color and textures over time, and because the butterflies love them as well.”

Tina Cremer: “Sphaeralceas for me, and they keep blooming for most of the summer if dead-headed. I also recently became enamored with the Elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia unguiculata*).”



Dan Songster-“I love the Matilija Poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) which is in full bloom most of the month of May and often into June. Almost all of the Buckwheats bloom in late spring-with California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) blooming in spring and early summer, their flowers lasting all summer long, first white, fading to orange, then rust, and finally chocolate before falling apart after fall sometimes! Bladderpod (*Peritoma arborea*) is an absolute spring and summer bloomer with an intense yellow. Quite a show. And our



Asters in general are good summer plants; one I enjoy is Seaside Daisy (Erigeron sp.) It is an easy one to grow and blooms from April through summer!

Our question for the next newsletter: “With the drought conditions continuing, even our native gardens may be suffering from the lack of irrigation we once provided. Which native plant would you nominate for being a “survivor” of droughts where irrigation is reduced to conserve water?”



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

The board has decided that the 50 person limit at the Duck Club is too low for us. In-person connectivity will happen through outdoor field trips for now and plans are shaping up for an outdoor gathering at Mile Square Park on June 19.

Thursday, May 19

Bolsa Chica—a Coastal Wetlands in Transition (Zoomed)

Speaker: Dave Pryor



The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is an approximately 1,300-acre coastal estuary. Habitats include open water, mudflats, salt marsh, coastal dunes, seabird nesting islands, riparian, and freshwater marsh. Like all other wetlands in Southern California, this area has been highly modified- diverted, drained, damned, flooded, shot, drilled, polluted, built out, and came very close to becoming another harbor. It is now in phases of restoration, preservation and protection as the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and Marine Protected Area including some high-quality and rare resources in the aquatic, bird, and plant worlds with highly accessible trails and viewing opportunities. Come take a tour with Dave and get the inside scoop on several rarities found on the reserve.

David Pryor retired as the manager of natural, cultural, and interpretive resources for California State Parks in Orange and San Diego Counties. He was responsible for 17 miles of coastal properties, and now works and plays in the Bolsa Chica area. Dave is a renaissance man who is published on vernal pools at San Onofre, done SCUBA transects at Crystal Cove (his degree is in Marine Biology from California State University, Long Beach) and has been a lifeguard, cop, fireman, dive master, ski patrolman, surfer, marathoner, mountaineer, adventurer. He currently serves on both the Bolsa Chica Conservancy Board and our CNPS, Orange County Chapter Board.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlufu2upzMiGtNKrkDaVgeDjxHWfHhclD-6>

Pre-meeting round table at 7:15, program begins at 7 :30.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, May 15: BELL VIEW TRAIL/ROBINSON RANCH

Just outside of Rancho Santa Margarita is a series of trails with an amazing amount of plant diversity. This is one of our better grassland habitats in Orange County, on a slope above Trabuco Canyon. We will take a trip up an offshoot of the Bell View trail as it meanders through unique chaparral which includes a rare colony of chaparral pea (*Pickeringia montana*). Our Orange County plants may be distinct from other described taxa of this species and are currently the subject of study by renowned botanist Dr. Peter Raven.

Some other interesting plants likely seen in the grasslands and surrounding shrublands include *Allium haematochiton*, both *Asclepias californica* and *eriocarpa* (hopefully with monarch larvae), *Calochortus catalinae*, *Lupinus excubitus*, *Madia elegans* and *Trichostemma lanatum*.

Meet 9 AM at the intersections of Robinson Ranch Rd. and Vista Drive, which is just over one mile off of Plano Trabuco Road in Robinson Ranch. There is plenty of free parking here on the street, at the Bell View Trail Trailhead.

*Free and open to all. Leader: Jonathan Frank. Physical Difficulty: Moderate to high, with some uphill and slippery trails. Bring hat, sunscreen, camera, wildflower book/notepad, water and hiking shoes/boots. No water or restrooms. Plant Intensity: moderate to high. Time: Approx. 3 hours, depending on the group. Please note: Attendees will receive an email confirmation two days before the event. Those who sign up in the final two days will not receive the reminder message. Registration required for this event.**

Sunday, May 22—CHIQUITA RIDGE

Chiquita Ridge is a rare example of intact coastal sage scrub. This area was too rugged for cattle to graze in the 1800s, and as a result harbors an astonishing variety of plants. On this hike expect to encounter species within the *Dudleya*, *Salvia*, *Artemisia*, *Rhus*, *Calochortus*, *Opuntia*, *Diplacus*, *Sisyrinchium*, and *Rhamnus* genera, among others. Depending on the rain we receive, several ferns including *Pentagramma triangularis* and *Polypodium californicum* may make an appearance. This area is geologically interesting as well, with several sandstone outcroppings containing numerous fossilized shells / bones.

This will be an easy - moderate out and back hike. Aside from the beginning part of the trail, it is relatively flat. The hike will start at the Ladera Ranch Fire Station, climb to the trail, and continue north 1.5 miles to where the trail ends at Oso Parkway, and then return the way we came. This will likely take 1-2 hours, depending on the number of botanical detours.

*Physical Difficulty: Moderate / some uphill sections of trail. Bring hat, sunscreen, camera, water, wildflower book / notepad, and good walking / hiking footwear. No water or restrooms. Plant intensity: moderate to high. Time: approx 1.5-2 hours. Parking is on the side of the street - Station Way in Ladera Ranch, CA. Please note: Attendees will receive an email confirmation two days before the event. Those who sign up in the final two days will not receive the reminder message. Registration required for this event.**

***Please go to <https://occnps.org/> to register for these field trips.**

\$3,000 DISTRIBUTED TO CHARLIE O'NEILL GRANT WINNERS

Mari Cookson, who is pursuing a master's degree in molecular biology at Cal State Fullerton, was awarded \$700 for "Genomic investigation of the systematics and diversification in North American dwarf mistletoes (*Arceuthobium* spp.)"

Xinyu Li, a PhD candidate in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at UC Irvine, was awarded \$1,100 for "Assessing plant pollinator interactions within a wildfire context."

Elizabeth Herrmann is pursuing a master's degree in Conservation and Restoration Science at UC Irvine and was awarded \$1,200 for "Assessing beach wrack ecology at Crystal Cove State Park".

The **Charlie O'Neill Grant** was established in 1993 to honor the late Charlie O'Neill, OC-CNPS President from 1990-1992 and a highly inspirational member of the chapter. The grant is awarded annually to graduate and undergraduate students planning to conduct field research related to biology, ecology, floristics, taxonomy or ethnobotany of native plants. preferably those occurring within Orange County. Congratulations to this year's winners!

A Sea and Sage Audubon's '4th Tues.' Conservation Lecture special!**Sunday, May 15, 3:30 PM: Homegrown National Park, with Doug Tallamy—a Zoom presentation**

Homegrown National Park is a national challenge to create diverse ecosystems in private and public lands by reducing lawns, removing invasives, and planting natives. The goal is to restore with natives 20 million acres—just half of what is now in lawn!

To register for this Zoom presentation, go to:

<https://mailchi.mp/seaandsageaudubon/may-4th-tues-5354615?e=2babac75f8>

Zoom check-in begins at 3:00 PM; the program begins promptly at 3:30.

OC CNPS Members *Blitz* Caspers Park



On Sunday morning, March 20, fifty chapter members and friends conducted a first ever Botany Blitz at Caspers Wilderness Park, off the Ortega Highway in South Orange County. We were extremely happy and overwhelmed by the number of participants, their enthusiasm, and the results, all of which exceeded our expectations.

A Botany Blitz is a one-day coordinated effort to document as many plant species as possible in each location, in this case the 8,000 acres of Casper Wilderness Park.

Here are a few numbers from the day:

- Number of Observations: 1,853
- Number of Unique Plant Taxa Observed (Research Grade in iNat): 359
 - 264 natives
 - 95 non-natives
- Number of New Taxa added to the Caspers Park Vascular Plant Checklist: 34
- Number of Newly Vouchered (collected) Taxa added to the Caspers Park Vascular Plant Checklist: 17+

Some individual superstars from the day were:

- Most Observations: James Bailey with 199 (followed by Laura Camp)
- Most Individual Species: James Bailey with 160 (followed by Laura Camp)
- Team/Area with the Most Individual Taxa Observed: Area G with 213 taxa (the far northern area)
- Species with Most Observations: *Amsinckia menziesii* - common fiddleneck

Most interesting plant found: *Fritillaria biflora* – chocolate lily (first record for the park)

Most unexpected plant found: *Koeleria gerardii* (first record for OC)

Each participant received a draft copy of ***The Vascular Plants of Caspers Wilderness Park Checklist***, a project of the UCI Herbarium, with assistance from OC CNPS. Begun in 2020, the checklist will include cited documentation from herbarium vouchers (collections) of every plant species and taxa at the park, with additional observations from iNaturalist and Calflora.

Our goals for the day were to ***Have Fun, Learn and Contribute to Science***. Thank you all for your help.



Koeleria gerardii



Fritillaria biflora



Venegasia carpesioides



Lupinus truncata



Vicia ludoviciana



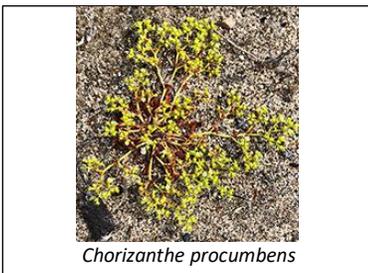
QUINCE



Amsinckia menziesia



Chorizanthe procumbens



Chorizanthe procumbens



—Ron Vanderhoff