



**CALENDAR**

Sep 14.....Chapter Meeting: Caspers  
 Oct 12 ..... Chapter Meeting  
 Nov 9 .....Chapter Meeting: Sage  
 Nov 12 ....Sage Festival at Tree of Life

**TOGETHER AGAIN!! IN-PERSON MEETINGS RESUME, LOCATION AND DATES CHANGE**

With capacity limited to 50 people at the Duck Club, the difficult decision was made to find a new meeting place. Beginning in September, meetings will take place at the Norman P. Murray Community Center in Mission Viejo. This is a spacious hall with good acoustics and doors which open to the surrounding park. To accommodate the new location, the meeting date will move from the third Thursday to the second Wednesday of the month. We look forward to seeing you in person again!

**CHAPTER MEETING**

**Wednesday, September 14, 7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**THE RONALD W. CASPERS WILDERNESS PARK FLORISTIC PROJECT**

*Speakers: Rebecca Crowe, Michael Simpson, Bob Allen, Ron Vanderhoff, and Fred Roberts*

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

**In-person only, masks recommended, no snacks**



In 2019, a group of local botanists set out to create the first comprehensive vouchered checklist of Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park. Caspers Park is located in the Santa Ana Mountains and contains a dreamscape of shady oak woodlands, sycamore lined creeks, scale-broom strewn washes, open swaying grasslands, and scrub-covered ridges at times painted with wildflowers. Up until this point, the park had not been systematically surveyed and vouchered to officially document its plant life. Herbarium voucher specimens, which are pieces of plants that are preserved and archived, along with

digital photographic images of these plants create a robust documentation that a particular plant was growing at a certain location at a given moment in time.

In this evening’s presentation we will introduce you to the team of botanists and community scientists that created the vouchered checklist, the tools we used, and the Flora of Caspers Wilderness Park. We hope to inspire you to observe the plants in your own neighborhoods and parks. Longtime members may recall a short-lived CNPS initiative called “Local Flora”, urging members to work on an area local to them. It is in this same spirit that we present the

Chapter meetings will take place on the **second Wednesday** of the month at the **Norman P. Murray Community Center**, Sycamore-B room, 24931 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo. From I-405, exit on La Paz east. Continue for 1.7 miles then turn left onto Veterans Way. The Community Center is on the left.

checklist, a collaborative project of the speakers. The herbarium voucher specimens are curated and housed at the University of California, Irvine Herbarium (IRVC).



## A SAGE IN EVERY GARDEN!

OCCNPS, in partnership with Roger's Gardens, will be giving away 2,000 White sage (*Salvia apiana*) plants in four-inch pots at events from November 2022 through February 2023.

Our first giveaway event will occur on **November 9** at the OCCNPS chapter meeting at the Norman P. Murray Community Center in Mission Viejo. That evening, we will feature a screening of the movie *Saging the World*, which talks about the importance of sage to Indigenous Peoples and how plants are being poached from our wild lands to supply worldwide demand for smudging.

**Tree of Life Nursery** is hosting a **Sage Festival** on November 12 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This will be a free family event with educational workshops, interactive booths, shopping, plant giveaways and more.

### Did you know?

- White sage (*Salvia apiana*) is native to Southern California and Northern Baja California. **It grows nowhere else in the world.**
- White sage has deep spiritual significance for California Indigenous communities, who use this sacred plant in ceremonies and have cherished and protected it for thousands of years.
- White sage is in danger. It is being illegally harvested from wildlands to satisfy worldwide demand for smudge sticks.

### You can help:

- Don't buy white sage for smudging. But if you must, ask before you buy: know the provenance of the sage. If it doesn't come from a sustainable farm, don't buy it.
- **Grow your own: it is the best option!** White sage will thrive in your garden, or even in a pot anywhere in Orange County. It likes full sun, is drought resistant and virtually pest free.
- Buy white sage plants from a local nursery that has sustainably sourced the seed. Plant more than one sage in your garden and enjoy the fragrance, beauty, and pollinators they attract.

## ONLY AT OCCNPS.ORG: The Emergent Invasives List

This list of plant bullies, pictures included, can be found **Invasives**. See the list of recent arrivals in the county. Check on the **RedAlert** list. Learn how to report suspect species. And be alert on the trails. Orange County will thank you.

OCTOBER 20 – 22, San Jose

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