The Summer Issue: Chapter meetings are on hold until September (September 15 to be exact) and our chapter has no scheduled field trips this summer. Be sure to check cnps.org for other chapter's field trips if traveling about the state. Meanwhile, explore the local hills and trails for summer blooms.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Measure M2 Land Acquisitions To Date:
The first four properties have been acquired, from willing sellers, by the Orange County Transportation Authority with funds from Measure M2, which was approved by the voters in 2006. These properties all have outstanding natural values and will be preserved in perpetuity as open space. The properties are:

- Ferber Ranch, 399 acres, next to Hickey Canyon, off of Trabuco Canyon Rd.
- Hayashi property, 296 acres, off Carbon Canyon Rd, on northern border of Chino Hills State Park.
- Saddle Creek South property, 84 acres, on the south side of Live Oak Canyon Rd.

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, heading a coalition of OC enviro groups (including OCCNPS), negotiated language into Measure M2 to include funding to mitigate habitat impacts from freeway expansion projects. The mitigation money is to be used on a comprehensive basis, rather than piecemeal and project-by-project, to do landscape-level acquisitions and restoration of important natural lands.

In addition to the above acquisitions, restoration projects for five parcels of already-preserved lands are now moving ahead; the work will begin when seasonally appropriate. The parcels were listed in our March-April Newsletter.

See www.FHBP.org/projects/measure-m.html for details on the Measure M2 mitigation program, on the properties that have been acquired and are being restored, and what is yet to come.

It’s great that the promise of Measure M2 is being fulfilled! The wildlife corridors and habitats being preserved in perpetuity and the restoration of habitats are all vital to the health of OC’s natural heritage. But even more important, this unprecedented partnership of enviro groups and the transportation agencies demonstrates how to do pro-active cooperation in mutually beneficial ways toward perhaps-disparate goals. It sets an example for enviro groups and agencies everywhere.

The General Plan Resource Directory: Creating Sustainable Communities in Orange County has recently been published by FHBP. A copy can soon be ordered from www.FHBP.org. It is the result of an FHBP/OC Green Vision project to review the General Plans (GPs) of the County of Orange and all OC cities, to discover which have innovative policies for GP elements. The volume includes a CD of strong, innovative GPs from cities and counties elsewhere in California.

Among the required GP elements, the Land Use and Open Space Policies have a direct bearing on how much, or if, natural open space/vegetation/habitat can be preserved. But successfully applying those two Policies depends on the Community Design, Jobs and Housing, Sustainability, Transportation and Water Quality Policies, at least. Thus it is important that OCCNPS members look into our communities’ and OC’s GPs. ACTION NOW: Get a copy of The General Plan Resource Directory. Compare with your community’s GP. Does the GP have strong policies that promote land uses that preserve natural open space?

—Celia Kucher, Conservation Chair

Call for Volunteers

VOLUNTEERS / INTERNS NEEDED! CNPS has a backlog of tasks that are crucial to several of our program initiatives, but for which we have neither the funding nor the staff time to address. We are therefore reaching out to our supporters whom we know have a wealth of talents to offer! Our most pressing needs include the following:

- **CNPS State Office** – Our State Office needs administrative assistance! We have a number of organizational tasks that are crucial to our day-to-day functioning for which we are seeking volunteers. These tasks include filing, inventory of merchandise and other items, and some general reorganization. If you enjoy organizing and have an eye for order, please contact Cari Porter (porter@cnps.org).
- **CNPS State Office – CNPS History Project** – The Executive Director is looking for someone to help coordinate the...
Native Gardener’s Corner-Member’s 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 Issue: “How do you manage, suppress or avoid weeds in your garden?” Answers listed in order received and thanks to those who did respond!

Alison Shilling: “I find that weeds are to quite a large extent suppressed in my front native garden by the coverage of about 3/4 of the ground by perennial plants and shrubs. I do about 1/10th the weeding there compared to the back yard, where I have largely annual vegetables and fruit trees.”

Bob Allen: “A triple threat: compost atop the open areas in the gardens, gravel walkways underlain with landscape cloth, and lots of plants.”

Christiane Shannon: “Most commonly, I use the hand pulling technique and seldom go in my garden without taking the time to pull a few handfuls of weeds here or there. I am very well aware of the importance of pulling them out before they go to seed. Beginning a year ago though, in order to make it easier and faster, I have been spraying Round-up on the worst pest (an exotic spurge) that takes pleasure in popping up everywhere in my pebble paths. It is quite time consuming to get the roots out of compacted pebbles.”

Ron Vanderhoff: “Mostly with a combined assault. My most popular is a wiggle hoe (“Hula-hoe”), hands and knees, and corn gluten. The corn gluten should be used more. It is a preventative, 100% organic pre-emergent and seems to really help, especially after the second season, but timing is everything. You have to put it down a month or so prior to the primary germination period. That will vary depending upon whether cool-season or warm season weeds are the target – or both. It has no impact on soil ecology, groundwater contamination, or plant health.”

Dori Ito: “1) Mulch 2) Mulch 3) More mulch 4) Commit random acts of weeding. 5) Try not to water anywhere I haven’t mulched.”

Laura Camp: “I usually hand-pull, but I do use Round-Up on occasion, in pathways and on my DG surfaces. I have a terrible problem with an onion-like weed that I don’t know the name of. Years ago I read a recommendation by Robert Smaus of the LA Times that the whole plant plus all the dirt around the bulb must be removed because the dirt-colored bulblets will just make a new plant. I have found this impractical, and the weed just seems to proliferate when I try to weed it. This year I have worked on removing the leaves as soon as possible when they show above ground, and that seems to be working to starve the energy of the bulbs. We’ll see if my strategy works long term.” (I hope it is not Asphodelus fistulosus–that is a tough one-Dan.)

Alan Lindsay: “For large bare areas I’ve used landscape cloth with a layer of bark on top (just to hide the cloth). Both are easily obtained. The bark and cloth should probably be replaced after 2 years but I’ve had it down in one area for over 5 years. One advantage, which can also be a disadvantage, is that the ground will stay moist under the cloth—that does affect the root system of plants nearby.”

Chuck Wright: “PERSISTENCE. I trust the Bradley method, of pinch and pull. Mulching helps, I prefer rock, but organic mulch works too. My favorite tools are a large screwdriver and a small screwdriver. For really nasty weeds I cut at base and apply a few drops of roundup, but this is a last resort. A kneeling pad is a must.

Sarah Jayne: “Fortunately, in my home garden, I have very few weeds. The school garden I maintain is another matter. There, it’s mostly staying on top of things with hand pulling (which I actually enjoy), and an occasional chemical treatment of the oxalis by the school district landscape department.”

Rob Moore: “First and foremost Mulching. In areas where this isn’t feasible like the wildflower meadow in my backyard, hand pulling is the norm–especially with the more woody types like Horseweed. I use Roundup with the softer plants such as Dandelions and Sowthistle. I treat them in late fall/early winter before the wildflowers emerge, after which, I return to hand pulling. Nut Sedge is a bit more tricky as I’ve had no luck using Glyphosate with this plant. I have had some luck laying down newspaper and a layer of mulch, but this only mitigates their inevitable appearance. Argh!”

Dan Songster: “For me it depends on whether it is a supper weed or just a normal garden weed. For ‘superweeds’ like Bermuda Buttercup, Bermudas Grass, Nutgrass (Sedge), and Field Bindweed, I use systemic chemical controls like Roundup. If they are growing amidst desirable plants I sometimes wipe the diluted herbicide on the weed leaf to avoid any spray drift. Weeds of the common variety may seem tenacious and difficult but they are weaklings compared to those superweeds and so hand pulling (“grab low and pull slow”) and then a thick layer of mulch will do the job just fine–I try to get to them before they drop all their seed though.”

Celia Kutscher: My native garden replaced a bermuda lawn that I sprayed out some weeks before beginning hardscape and planting work. So, many weeds & their seeds were pretty much eliminated before planting. In the 20+ years since then, diligent hand weeding has kept them eliminated. My main weed problem continues to be non-native annual grasses. Since they sprout & grow so quickly after the first rain, if I manage to get
after them right away they are easily distinguished from resprouting Nasella & wildflower seedlings. But if not, there’s always some that I don’t see until after they’ve seeded, & there they are again next spring.

Thanks to all who responded! Next issue’s question: “What are some of your favorite nurseries that supply at least some natives—near or far?”

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

Call for Volunteers—continued

gathering of historical information about chapters and statewide activities. The end result of this project will be a section of our website devoted to historical information about CNPS volunteers and activities since the organization was formed in 1965. The volunteer coordinator for this project must be proficient in MS Office and have excellent organizational skills. Most of the work can be done from a remote or home office location, but some time in the Sacramento office would be necessary. Please contact Tara Hansen (thansencnps.org) if you would like to help with this project.

- Conservation Program – The Conservation Program is seeking a Botanical Research Assistant to conduct literature searches on desert plant species. This research will be used to identify those species requiring consideration during review of several planned large-scale solar project. Assistant must have access to a university library. Contact Allen Tollesh (atollethcnps.org) if you can assist!

- Education Program / 2012 Conference – The Education Program needs assistance with fundraising, grant writing, and outreach. Experience with fundraising and grant writing is certainly a plus but there are many tasks that can be done that will build experience. Some tasks will involve researching potential funders, grantors, and/or conducting outreach to students and potential participants in other CNPS Education projects. We will fit the tasks to your interests and skill set. Contact Josie Crawford (jcrawfordcnps.org) if you can assist!

- Vegetation Program – The Vegetation Program is seeking individuals to assist us with mapping vegetation of rare plant communities. Mapping would be conducted in our Program office in downtown Sacramento using available computer equipment and ArcGIS software. We are open to individuals with a range of skills, but some experience with ArcMap 9 is required. This is a great opportunity to develop your skill set while assisting with our desert mapping efforts! Contact Deborah Stout (dstoutcnps.org) if you would like to find out more. We are also seeking an individual to assist with a variety of other data related tasks. These include entering vegetation survey data from around the state, researching characteristics of vegetation types, etc. We are looking for a detail-oriented person for these tasks, and this is a great way for someone to gain experience and knowledge of California’s diverse flora. Contact Deborah Stout (dstoutcnps.org) if you would like to find out more.

—Tara Hansen, CNPS Executive Director

ANNOUNCING...

Chapter member Mark Sugars has compiled a list of Orange County’s indigenous vascular plants that includes extensive etymological information. Mark, a longtime scholar of classical Greek and Latin, delves deeply into the origins of those scientific names that define genus and species, adding many fascinating details to one’s understanding of the nomenclature. The Word document runs to a hefty 92 pages, but it can be read on screen. Email Mark at jmsugars@sbcglobal.net.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Thank you to all of our new and renewing members. Your membership dues are supporting a state organization that has greatly expanded its conservation program in recent years, and is working to preserve desert habitats and native habitats in peril throughout California. Every member counts!

CALENDAR

Jul 17............Board Planning Session
Sept 1..................Board meeting
Sept 15..................Chapter Meeting
Oct 6..................Board Meeting
Oct 8..................Fall Plant Sale
Oct 20..................Chapter Meeting
Oct 15..................SCB Symposium
Nov 3..................Board Meeting
Nov 17..................SCB Symposium
Dec 1..................Board Meeting
Dec 15..................Chapter Meeting
Dec 2 – 4 .Chapter Council in San Diego
Jan 10 – 14, 2012, CNPS Conservation Conference in San Diego

03-18-11

i learned to thread a needle:
cut thread
bite end &
moten

watching bees nectar
at manzanita’s bloom
imagine an upside down jug
with a tiny opening
sweet stuff way up at the top

bee hums
high C
pollen releases

and then in storms a hummer
with a whirr
it hovers &
like me trying to thread a needle
it slips its long bill & tongue
into the tiny hole at blossom’s end
sips nectar &
zooms on to the next flower
i can barely thread a needle
a hummer eats that way

Bigberry Manzanita
Arctostaphlos glauca

Anna’s Hummingbird
Calypte anna

chuck wright
News from the GWC Native Garden—Volunteer Center, Lost

If you have not heard, late Thursday afternoon, June 2, 2011, the 6 X 6 wood shed that served as the volunteer center in the GWC Native Garden caught fire and burned down. I received the call at home after 5:30pm and besides all the normal thoughts about HOW this had happened, I wondered what might still be there. The fire department had been there and done its job so perhaps the hand tools survived. Books were all on the south wall so it was conceivable some of them made it although there would certainly be water damage from the fire fighters effort. I was sure the seed collection was gone. As my wife Elizabeth and I drove to the college that evening we made a list of what I remembered being in the shed—a list of what we most probably lost—it was something to do as we drove.

When we got to the Garden a charred vacancy was all that remained of what had once been a home of sorts for our group of community volunteers. I could recognize the little desk and filing cabinet that had been pulled out along with blackened wall sections by the firefighters to make sure all hot spots were exposed and put out before they left. Everything else was pretty much ashes or melted. Our extensive lending library of books related to native plants and botany was gone or nearly so. A few sodden pages were still legible. On the floor a pair of volunteer’s rubber rain boots was a puddle of blackened rubber, nearby lay the metal heads of the shears and loppers, handles burned away.

The physical loss of the volunteer center and its dozens of books—all frequently used, a nice seed collection, various hand tools, propagation equipment and many supplies, is one thing. But somehow there is more to the loss. This is where we hung our coats when warmed by our work, where we stored the seed we painstakingly collected and processed, where we listed the

plants we grew and made our labels, where we noted our day’s events and efforts, and where a comic strip apropos to gardening was tacked to the wall for others to enjoy. It was where I sat in the quiet and cool of the early morning and made a list of work suggestions for the volunteer’s workday. Without being aware of it, this simple little building became the heart of the garden for those of us caring for it. It was packed full of tools and books and memories.

I don’t want to make this out to be more than it is. We were very fortunate the hot house and potting shed did not also catch fire. And I do know people who have lost homes in fires and this is of course nowhere near that level of loss. Still there is a disturbance in our work and in the pulse of the Garden’s work crew. Currently, the sad black area of ash and debris has been cleaned up. The charred trees on either side pruned. Time has passed and we are ready for a new building and a new beginning for our community volunteers!

If you would like to help us create the new Volunteer Center with its needed contents, please consider donating money (of any amount), towards the effort. Contact the Golden West College Foundation Office at 714/892-7711, Extension 55001. If you live nearby, you can visit the very nice people in the Foundation Office, it is on the
south end of campus very near the President’s Office. Or you can mail donations to the GWC Foundation at PO Box 2748 Huntington Beach, Ca 92647. Make checks out to “GWC Foundation” and write “GWC Native Garden” on the memo line. All donations made to the Garden’s account (through the GWC Foundation) are tax deductible.

Please consider giving and mentioning it to others. Thank you very much!

—Dan Songster
CNPS Membership Application

Category | Annual Fee
--- | ---
Student/Limited Income | $25
Individual | $45
Family | $75
Plant Lover | $100
Patron | $300
Benefactor | $600
Mariposa Lily | $1500

CONTACT INFORMATION AND TEAMS

Officers (2011 – 2012):

President: Brad Jenkins 714 730-6023  bradjenkins@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Laura Camp 949 370-3033  laurac@treeoflifenursery.com
Secretary: Nancy Heuler 949 559-1757  nheuler@cox.net
Treasurer: Jennifer Mabley 949 855-2112  jenpod@gmail.com

Board 2010-2011:

President: Sarah Jayne 949 351-7688  sbjayne@cox.net
Vice-President: Laura Camp 949 552-0691  sbjayne@cox.net
Secretary: Nancy Heuler 949 559-1757  nheuler@cox.net
Treasurer: Jennifer Mabley 949 855-2112  jenpod@gmail.com

Board 2011-2012:

President: Celia Kutcher 949 496-9689  celia552@cox.net
Vice-President: Laura Camp 949 552-0691  sbjayne@cox.net
Secretary: Nancy Heuler 949 559-1757  nheuler@cox.net
Treasurer: Jennifer Mabley 949 855-2112  jenpod@gmail.com

Membership Team:

Team Lead: Laura Camp
Volunteer Coordinator: Diane Wollenberg
Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mablay
Hospitality: Sarah Jayne
Greeting: Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty
Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster
Programs: Dan Songster
Audio-Visual: Bob Allen, Rich Schilk, Dan Songster

Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC):

Team Lead: Dan Songster
Plant Sale: Dan Songster
Garden Tour: Sarah Jayne

Plant Science Team (Research OC):

Team Lead: Bob Allen
Rare Plants: Dave Bramlet, Fred Roberts

Contact Information and Teams

Publicity: Nancy Heuler
Newsletter: Sarah Jayne
eNews: Laura Camp
Publications: Rich Schilk
Website: Rich Schilk

Education Team:

Team Lead: Sarah Jayne
Educational Grants: Sarah Jayne
School Gardens: Sarah Jayne

July/August 2011