CONSERVATION REPORT
LEAPS IS BAAACK: A Notice of Preparation has been issued for the long-proposed 32-mile 500-kV transmission line along the eastern slope of the Santa Ana Mts. An EIR/EIS will be issued in due course. According to maps in the NOP (see cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspen/nevadahydro/nop.pdf, figure 1C), the transmission line will run pretty much along the top of the ridge, most notably along several miles of North and South Main Divide Roads in the vicinity of El Cariso. About 1.5 miles of it will be undergrounded, along the hang-gliding jump-off area.
The transmission line, now a separate project, was originally part of the proposed Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project (LEAPS). The environmental community has solidly opposed LEAPS and the transmission line since they were first proposed. The Center for Biological Diversity is now spearheading a coalition of environmental groups (including OCCNPS) in a campaign to continue strong opposition to both projects.
The Sierra Club Santa Ana Mountains Task Force is seeking contributions to a war chest to support attorney and legal costs through the projects’ agency and jurisdiction processes.
ACTION NOW: Send contributions, payable to the Santa Ana Mountains Task Force (subject line: CPUC), to:
P. Sappingfield
26352 Via Juanita
Mission Viejo CA 92691-1952
The Sierra Club San Gorgonio Chapter (Riverside Co.) will match funds up to $5000 total.
Or donate directly to the Center for Biological Diversity at: https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2167/t/5929/shop/custom.jsp?donate_page_KEY=3878; you might put “LEAPS TE/VS campaign” in the Notes field.
TERRIFIC NEW VIDEO! Surfrider Foundation has developed a 19-minute animated film titled “The Cycle of Insanity - The Real Story of Water”; it can be viewed directly from http://www.knowyourh2o.org/. The film is a centerpiece of Surferf’s “Know Your H2O program”, which is described more fully at http://www.beachapedia.org/Know_Your_H2O.
PLANT GALLS: Dr. Peter Bryant is inviting us to collaborate on a fun project to find out more about local plant galls. In his words:
“If you are out and about in Southern California, you could help in several ways (in order of increasing amount of work for you):
1. Point me to places where you have seen interesting galls (I am especially interested in galls on wild rose, since I have found them so far only at Idyllwild).
2. Come on gall hunting hikes. Any good locations for scrub oak? (So far, mostly from Little Sycamore in Laguna Coast.)
3. Collect galls and send them to me so I can rear out the insects. Please give each gall a unique number and record host plant, gall position (leaf, stem, bud, root) and type (Round, Hairy, Disc, etc), date and place collected.
4. Collect the galls, rear out the insects, photograph them, preserve them in ethanol, and send them to me. Record collection data as in #1 but also give each insect a unique specimen ID. (I started this project without using unique specimen IDs–result: time-consuming chaos!) “Looking forward to hearing from you!”
If you are interested, contact pjbryant@uci.edu.
—Celia Kutzer, Conservation Chair

FIELD TRIPS
May 15 (Sunday), 10 – 12: Tyke Hike at Nix Nature Center, Laguna Coast Wilderness
Ages 4 – 9, plus a parent (required!) or two.
This is a fun trip designed to captivate the interests of our budding naturalists. Discover some of Orange County’s natural history in an easily accessible wilderness area. We’ll be looking for lizards and butterflies, poppies and deerweed, good smells— and bad? And much more. At the end of the day, take advantage of the Nix Nature Center displays.
Bring along a small backpack with snacks and water. We will have a magnifying glass, binoculars, flower book, bird book, bug book. Pack lunch for the family to eat in the shade at the picnic tables. The Nix Nature Center is a well-marked turn off Laguna Canyon Road, about midway between the 405 and El Toro Road. There is a $3 parking fee. RSVP to Sarah Jayne, sbjayne@cox.net, 949 552-0691
May 22—Santa Ana Mountains Car/Truck Tour
Sponsored by NABA (North American Butterfly Association) and SAMNHA (Santa Ana Mountains Natural History Association), Larry Shaw and Lee Shoemaker will lead this all day excursion into the Santa Ana Mountains. Required reservations will be taken after April 1. The trip is limited to 12 vehicles. Drivers of sturdy vehicles should state how many passengers they can take.
Contact Lee Shoemaker at Lashoemaker@cs.com
May 28—San Onofre State Park, to search for Ferocactus viridescens — San Diego Barrel Cactus. Binoculars highly recommended. This is the last scheduled SAMBY trip—Santa Ana Mountain Big Year, that is. Bob Allen leads. For details and possible other SAMBY trips that are scheduled on short notice, go to our website or samby4occnps@me.com

JUNE 16—CHAPTER CELEBRATION
SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLE ITEMS NEEDED! Look at your book collection. Consider your favorite gift or grocery store or getaway retreat or restaurant or artist. Do you have an idea for a great item for Silent Auction or Raffle? If so, contact our Silent Auction chair, Kathy Glendinning, at ktgind@netscape.net. She is organizing our prizes for the upcoming 5th Annual Celebration on Thursday, June 16, 2011. Your help and creativity will make the difference towards a fun and profitable event for the chapter. In addition to donations, Kathy can also use help organizing items, both before and during the evening.
Celia Kutzer needs your great photos of 2010-11 chapter activities to show at our end-of-year bash— ooh-ahh plant shots from field trips, garden tour, people doing things at plant sales, outreach events, school gardens, etc. May 20 is the hoped-for deadline— June10 is final. Be kind, send early. Please ID event, date, people, plants, send as plain jpps, 72 dpi, 1MB or less, to celia552@cox.net.
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: “Which native do you find performs best up against walls and fences—basically in upright, narrow areas?”

Beth Nelson - For me, *Carpenteria californica* is doing that job really well. In April it will put any white rose to shame! Grows pretty fast too. Also good with some clipping is *Myrica californica*. And the leaves smell good when crushed.

Laura Camp - Two that I’ve used in my garden—*Symphoricarpos mollis*, Snowberry, makes a beautiful hedge that can be kept trimmed in a narrow space, about waist high. If you want to go taller, then *Philadelphus lewisi*, Mock-Orange, can get about 8 feet high and stays in place with pruning. Both plants are winter deciduous.

Bob Allen - I’m going to go with a vine, Anacapa Pink morning glory, *Calystegia macrostegia*. It trains well up a trellis, is a prolific bloomer, and is easy to maintain.

Dick Newell - Some of our native bryophytes would be nice, particularly if the wall or walkway was shaded and had a little moisture available.

Dori Ito - Don’t have any personal successes to relate, but was impressed with the *Galvezia* trained on a trellis in someone else’s west facing wall and hope to replicate that in my own.

Rob Moore - My choice for a good performer for narrow beds in proximity to walls and fences would be *Vitis californica* ‘Roger’s Red’. Short list of attributes: adaptable, great autumn color, fast growing, good habitat plant, cool flaky cinnamon color bark, and you can make jelly and juice from the fruit. You gotta love it!

Celia Kutzer - I’ve trained a toyon into an upright multi-trunk small tree in the 5-ft-wide space between the driveway & fence. It was chosen for upright form in 1-gallon, then very selectively trained & shaped while young. Now, around a decade old & about 15 feet tall, it gets minor thinning & shaping—so it won’t hang over the driveway too much—and removal of basal sprouts 2-3 times a year. It would be interesting to espalier *Galvesia speciosa* &/or *Keckiella cordifolia*—too bad I don’t have good places to try it....

Greg Rubin - Without question, *Cercocarpus betuloides blancheae* (C. alnifolii). Island Mountain Mahogany – large (up to 4”) leaves, 4’ wide, 8-12’ tall. Use it all the time for these situations. Can also use *Forestiere neomexicana* (New Mexico Olive). Narrow, upright habit. Beautiful white bark. Easily held to under 4’ wide.

Brad Jenkins - *Vitis californica*: This one requires a strong trellis and regular pruning to stay in a narrow spot. On the plus side, it grows quickly, takes minor sun to full sun, provides dense coverage, and can be manipulated to fill in all sorts of different heights and shapes. Birds love the fruit, the feelers and fruit and leaves are edible, and winter pruning is easy since the plant is deciduous.

Thea Gavin - A chain-link fence runs fifty feet across the back of our yard; against it grows three floppy and silvery California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and two coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), which are a little more soldier-like in their uprightness. All of these shrubs have grown taller than the six-foot fence; all have responded well (so far) to some fairly severe pruning to keep them going up and sideways, instead on onto the perimeter path. The birds seem to love the tangles of branches... and I love watching the birds.

Dan Songster - Holly-leaved Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*) can be sheared or pruned into a pretty narrow hedge from 4 to 8 feet high (or taller). Surprisingly, Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) also takes well to pruning and can fit into tight spots.

Next Newsletter’s Question: “How do you manage, suppress or avoid weeds in your garden?”

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**Definitely Home**

Thea Gavin

*Riparian*

willow and mule fat congregations—noon’s withering glance, rebuked in the cathedral of sycamore arches yellowthroat choirs join in, jubilant

*Slope effect*

how green follows north folds—no fence-line created this contrast—half-hills quilted with laurel sumac quail embroiler the curvaceous air

*Drought deciduous*

in dry times leaves retreat not skeletons, but patient dancers wait for winter’s sweet beating rain drums—who can hold on till then

*Vernal pools*

ephemeral home of fairy shrimp—no fish survive summer’s dust just round rainbows of wildflowers doomed to recede, recede, recede

*Chaparral*

look out: California’s wild identity the opposite of disneyfication old-growth elfin forests—licked like frosting by tongues of wildfire

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**PANAMINT DAISY GETS A FACE LIFT**

The Panamint Daisy, *Encelopsis covillei*, has been our logo since shortly after CNPS was founded in 1965. It has recently been slightly redesigned to make it more readily identifiable with the society. While it is a rare plant due to its narrow range—stony hillsides on the western side of the Panamint Mountains—it is easily seen at the right time of year when entering Death Valley National Park by way of the Wild Rose Canyon entrance.

On a recent visit, April 18 to be exact, that road was reported as “...closed due to wash outs, but people go around the barricade.” In fact, the road was very rough, but there was no barricade and Panamint Daisy was on duty in its predictable location. Only one plant presented itself for close inspection—footsteps led to it already—but many more were visible up the stony slopes on both sides of the road.

For those who haven’t seen it in person, know that this is not a diminutive desert flower. Panamint Daisy is a big, bold one. To do it justice, our logo would have to be elongated into a tall skinny oval. The whole plant stands almost two feet high and the flower heads are about five inches across. Handsome basal leaves are silvery gray and kind of diamond-shaped. The large head atop its sturdy stalk bobs about in the wind, ligules a-flapping, rendering it exceptionally difficult to photograph. But, go see it for yourself! [Color pictures on last page.]
Chapter Meetings

Unless otherwise noted, chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Duck Club in Irvine.
6:45 – 7:30 PM: Doors open for food, fellowship, interest centers, and more
7:30 PM: Lights out, program begins!

May 19—Humble, Neglected & Ignored: Underused natives for the adventurous gardener.
Speaker: Chris Barnhill

There are many colorful and worthwhile native plants waiting for a spot in your garden. Our many Ceanothuses, sages, coffeeberries, California fuchsias, Douglas iris and dozens of other species fill the role of dependable mainstream additions for your garden. I know we all love these easily found plants but are we ready for a horticultural adventure??
Join us as Chris Barnhill explores what is possible in our native landscapes by looking at plants other than the “normal” candidates! Dust the cobwebs from your horticultural closet and set aside the garden indispensables, while visiting some lonely and definitely underused horticultural gems waiting to fill an unused niche between a toyon and a hard place. From Andropogon to Zigadenus, let’s look at the humble to the spectacular and see if they can earn a place in our gardens.

Chris Barnhill has been with the Fullerton Arboretum for over 12 years as the Curator of the Living Collections, where he has spearheaded the effort to create both the Channel Islands and Mohave Gardens. He has worked at botanic gardens in both Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Denver, Colorado, and at nurseries in New Mexico and California. He was the photographer for two full-length books on two interesting genera of plants from South Africa. One of the species, Conophytum chrisocruxum, was named for him.

Chris spends much of his free time traipsing around southern California, photographing and frolicking in this fantastic botanically diverse region we call home. He also enjoys his family and a steady supply of classical music and George Harrison recordings.

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
From the Orange Freeway (57), exit at Yorba Linda Blvd., heading west toward Cal State Fullerton. At Associated Road, turn left and then left into the parking lot. The meeting will take place in the Education Pavilion.

June 16, 2011—Reimagining the California Lawn: Talk and Parking Signing!
Speaker: Bart O’Brien

Lawns are so much a part of our suburban consciousness that even when you want to reduce the size of your lawn, or eliminate it, it is hard to imagine what it might look like or how to go about making the change.

If that sounds like you, Reimagining the California Lawn is the book you’ve been looking for to help you through the process. Bart’s talk will focus on using native and Mediterranean plants, recycled materials, smart watering practices, and composting. In short, he will give us good look at removing a lawn and creating a lovely and sustainable landscape. The book is not all native, but it is an excellent primer for those of us who are ready to take that first step—kill the lawn and plant something that is not a turf-grass monoculture.

If you are considering removing a turf area (or if your neighbor is) this is the talk to attend and the book to own. As Emily Green of the LA Times says “Within weeks of buying this book, a motivated beginner could have a plan, a plant list and a set of affordable, achievable goals. The upshot over time would be thousands saved on water, fertilizer and lawn care, and a blooming corridor far superior to grass.”

As always, Bart’s Talk will be informative and inspiring and really, it is not to be missed!
Bart O’Brien is Director of Special Projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, an educational institution dedicated to research, conservation, and horticulture of California native plants. An authority on the California flora and of northern Baja California, Mexico, he is also an accomplished collector, grower, photographer, lecturer, and author. He is co-author of two recent books: the award winning California Native Plants for the Garden, and the bilingual Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens – Cuidado y mantenimiento de jardines de plantas nativas del sur de California. His new book, coauthored with Carol Bornstein and David Fross, Re-imaging the California Lawn – Water-Conserving Plants, Practices, and Designs was published in April, 2011.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER
Welcome to our new members, Teresa Fowler, Doug and Donna Bell, Ted Edgell, Ritchie McLaren, Sharon Ratterree, Lauren See, Jay Matchett, Charles Nichols and Mona Jean Gillett.
Thank you to all of our 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

May 5..........................Board Meeting
May 19..........................Chapter Meeting
May 5..........................Board Meeting
May 7..........................Garden Tour
May 15......................Tyke Hike Field Trip
May 22...........Santa Ana Mtns Field Trip
May 28......................San Onofre Field Trip
Jun 2..........................Board Meeting
Jun 16......................Chapter Celebration

Directions to the Duck Club
The Duck Club is located in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary next to the IRWD water treatment facility. Due to construction there, access via Riparian View off Michelson is now closed. The new entrance is off Campus Drive. It’s shorter and prettier, on a new, smooth two-lane road. To get there:
From Jamboree, go south on Michelson. Pass the old entrance and continue to Harvard. Turn right on Harvard. At University Drive turn right again. At Campus, turn right and stay in the far right lane, which leads to the right turn to the Duck Club.
From Culver, pass Michelson and continue on to University. Turn right and continue to Campus Drive.
Here’s the tricky part: When leaving, it’s right turn only onto Campus. Take Campus directly north to Jamboree for the access to the 405. Along the way, Carlson cuts across to Michelson for an easy return to Culver and vicinity. See our website for a map & other info.

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Briefly...
Saturday, June 4, 10 - 4—2011 San Clemente Garden Club
Garden Tour
Self-guided tour of six coastal gardens; advance tickets $25 each until June 3rd and $30 on the day of the tour. (A native plant garden is included.) Pre-paid box lunch is available until May 30 for $12 each. Please go to www.sanclementegardenclub.com for ticket order form or to purchase tickets on-line. For more information please contact Mary Mohr at (949)498-2818 or go4mohr@cox.net
CNPS Membership Application

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

Organizations, please go to CNPS.ORG

☐ Affiliate with the Orange County Chapter, which will receive a portion of the dues. Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible. The journal Fremontia, the CNPS Bulletin, and the chapter newsletter are included in the cost of membership.

Make check payable to CNPS and mail to:
California Native Plant Society
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816
OR join online: go to www.cnps.org click on Join CNPS

Name ________________________________ ________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip __________________________________________________________
Phone/E-Mail ___________________________________________________________

Membership Team:
Team Lead: Laura Camp
Volunteer Coordinator: Diane Wollenberg
Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley
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

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Secretary Nancy Heuler 949 559-1757 nheuler@cox.net
Treasurer Jennifer Mabley 949 855-2112 jenpod@gmail.com
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Dan Songster 949 768-0431 songster@cox.net

Board 2011-2012:
Celia Kutcher 949 496-9689 celia552@cox.net
vacant

Interest Center: Bob Allen, Rich Schilk
Conservation Team (Protect OC):
Team Lead: Celia Kutcher
Invasive Plants: Bill Neill
Explore Team (Explore OC):
Team Lead: Brad Jenkins
Field Trip Logistics: Rich Schilk
Communications Team:
Team Lead: Nancy Heuler
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

Go to cnps.org, Education, for information on the CNPS Educational Grants

Panamint Daisy
Wild Rose Canyon road
basal leaves
wind-blown flower head