It’s Election Time...
In order to expand and diversify our Board of Directors, we will be requesting at our December meeting that our by-laws be amended to increase the number of board members from a maximum of nine to a maximum of twelve. A slate of candidates for these positions will also be submitted for approval. But guess what—NO debates, NO campaign promises, guaranteed! Anyone else who would like to have a direct voice in the care and guidance of our chapter should contact Dan Songster, chairman of the Nominating Committee [contact info page 6]. All are welcome!

THE CONSERVATION REPORT
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOLSA CHICA LAND TRUST!
1. At its October hearing, the California Coastal Commission denied the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) that would have allowed Shea Homes to put 111 houses on the Upper Bolsa Chica Wetlands. In denying the CDP, commissioners mentioned that the mesa is part of a larger ecosystem, and that there has been lack of enforcement regarding unpermitted fill on the property. The Land Trust has consistently advocated on both these issues for a decade and more.
2. The Land Trust has received a $100,000 program grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Walmart Acres for America. The funds will be used to help reduce invasive non-native grasses, increase southern tarplant and native coastal grass populations, and fund term long monitoring of the 118-acre Bolsa Chica mesa.
See more on both these great successes at bolsachicalandtrust.org/

Fall Dispersal
for Grand Canyon’s North Rim seasonal crew
Aerial dispersal appears to be stimulated by overcrowding and food shortage, and also by a physiological need to move to new habitats at a certain stage in the life cycle of some species.
Eric Duffey, “Aerial dispersal in spiders”

Filaments—the air is hung with lazy curve and sway.
Over the canyon these evening glints call: fling yourself into the still—you will twist a bit and float and fall upon the breath of red layers releasing the day’s warmth, carrying you out—there—free as canyon light, drift as canyon shadow, catching eventually.

Thea Gavin

FUTURE OF FEDERAL LANDHOLDINGS IN BALANCE. The South Coast Region of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 300,000-plus acres, largely in western Riverside and western San Diego Counties (none in OC). These lands include large, intact blocks of chaparral, grassland, CSS and riparian habitat and are cornerstone species-conservation elements in Riverside and San Diego Counties’ multiple-species plans (similar to OC’s NCCP). The lands are also are under constant pressure for OHV use, renewable energy development, resource extraction, etc. The long-awaited revision of BLM’s South Coast Resource Management Plan has recently been released. Of the Plan’s four Alternatives, the Conservation Alternative designates the greatest amount of land as highly protected “Area of Critical Environmental Concern” and stresses low-impact recreation and habitat and species conservation. But even this Alternative has significant shortcomings, such as in the vital subject of fire management. See the Plan at blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings/Draft_Resource_Management_Plan_and_EIS.html ACTION NOW: contact dsilverla@me.com for more background and a sample letter. Comment deadline is Dec. 23.

COYOTE HILLS REFERENDUM SET. The City Council of Fullerton has scheduled an election for November 2012 to ask voters whether they support the Council’s approval of a development plan to put 760 houses on the West Coyote Hills, the last large undeveloped, mostly-natural, open space in northern OC. The Council’s action was in response to petitions, gathered by Friends of the Coyote Hills, that had hundreds more signatures than was needed for validation. ACTION NOW: See the Friends website, www.coyotehills.org/, for details on this issue and how you can help pass the referendum and keep the Coyote Hills as natural open space.

OCCNPS SIGNS ON TO GREEN VISION LETTER. The Green Vision Project has proposed that the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) adopt a policy to acquire and protect open-space natural lands as part of the new regional Sustainable Community Strategy for its six-county area. The acquisition and protection form a mechanism by which carbon can be sequestered and greenhouse gas emissions avoided, thus help to meet the mandates of AB 32 and SB 375, as well as to secure the general benefits of natural open space. OCCNPS was among the first environmental organizations to sign on.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair
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. This Issue’s question was “How did you get interested in gardening/growing with native plants?” Answers are listed in the order received.

**Mary Olander**—“My husband and I took Bob Allen’s course at Santa Ana College. There I met dozens of CNPS fans like Dick Newell, Laura Camp, Don Millar, Joan Hampton, Helen Wood, Thea Gavin, etc. They had the fever for natives and were happy to give it to me!”

**Thomas W. Keene**—“I became interested in native plants from my first botany instructor at the Cerritos Community College—Edson Follett made plants live!... field trips to the Mojave and Great Basin Deserts...mild coastal sage and chaparral (and) working in various coastal, montane, and desert riparian habitats just made me go crazy for this vegetation. Then, I visited Tree of Life Nursery over 30 years ago; met Mike Evans and Jeff Bonn and their entire awesome staff and my love for natives became fervent and deeply instilled. And then the “fight” began—out went the roses, azaleas, anything that was not native to southern California. I have become a snobbish-purest native plant person, who believes in southern California there is simply no reason why all commercial and residential landscapes are not southern California native plants. Period.”

**Ron Vanderhoff**—“I was a “bug kid”. I used to chase butterflies all over Southern California attempting to learn everything I could about them, including morphology, range, flight season, larval stages and especially foodplants. Well, foodplants of course were native plants. That was when my native plant interest moved from casual to somewhat serious.”

**Celia Kutcher**—“My family moved to San Clemente in 1952 and began building the “dream house.” The back of the lot ran down into a then-still-natural streamcourse with the hillside beyond covered in coyote brush, toyon, lemonade berry & coastal sage. In the spring monkeyflowers, scarlet bugler, blue dicks, blue-eyed grass & many wildflowers bloomed. I wondered why these plants weren’t used to landscape the house, instead of exotics. On moving into my own house in Capistrano Beach in 1961 I wanted to landscape with natives but it was logistically unfeasible. In 1990 I was finally able to remove my own exotic landscape & replace it with natives.”

**Gene Ratcliffe**—“When I was ten, our family was visiting the Tilden Botanical Garden in Berkeley, where I saw some manzanitas in pots. I liked this plant from seeing it in the wild, but only members of CNPS could buy plants...... of course Dad got me a membership and a manzanita, and the rest is history.”

**Dori Ito**—“While the interest in natives for me was always there just below the surface so to speak, it was a serendipitous and magical set of circumstances involving a swooshing hummingbird, a tiresome lawn and a suddenly urgent interest in our water source that led me to the native garden at Golden West College. Upon entering its gates, enchantment took hold and has yet to release its grip.”

**Bob Allen**—“I grew up gardening in San Juan Capistrano, taught to me by my Dad. As I was learning native plants in high school, I thought it would be great to add natives to my parents’ home. This pre-dated Tree of Life Nursery... there were no places to buy native plants. So I would transplant things like live-forevers (something we all know not to do today). After Tree of Life Nursery was established and I had my own place, I became addicted.”

**Sarah Sarkissian**—“I lived in walking distance of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden as a child and in those days it was free (plus there was a back gate). So when I finally had a plot of my own, that was my internalized model of a garden.”

**Rama Nayeri**—“After 7+ years of working for a landscape architect designing cookie cutter landscapes I woke up one morning and thought that there must be a better way. Through research and exploration I discovered the solution and decided that I could help by designing CA native landscapes that are friendly to this earth we have so carelessly neglected.”

**Alison Shilling**—“We had been in this country 5 years, living in Santa Monica, when we moved east to Riverside County. Having been a gardener all my life, I automatically planted roses round the front door, daffodils and fruit trees. Then my sister-in-law asked me to go with her to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden sale [she wanted a Matilija Poppy], and I found myself mesmerized by the different beauty of the plants in their garden. Also, for the first time in my life, I could walk out of my yard and see some of the same plants thriving in a climate so very different from the England where I grew up. I collected seeds, took cuttings, and gradually re-created small pieces of the coastal sage scrub around us.”

**Alan Lindsay**—“During the drought of the 1970s I started searching for drought tolerant plants in local nurseries. What I found was mostly Australian and that I took as a challenge, to find which California natives would work in my garden.”

**Charles Wright**—“I started innocently as an english gardener and then a fruit and vegetable gardener, but when we moved part time to the mountains fruits and veggies meant food for bears and critters. Native plants meant food for insects and butterflies. Recently at our mountain house I was thrilled to watch two monarch caterpillars having breakfast on my narrow leaf milkweed. Earlier I have enjoyed watching bees, wasps, flies, and butterflies nectar on rabbit brush and senecio and lesser goldfinch are already gleaning seeds from great basin sage and rabbitbrush. The native plants provide so much to the native critters and it is a thrill to take a part in the process.”

**Thea Gavin**—“Tired of the water-and-whack-the-grass routine, I killed my lawn, front and back in 1985, then dabbled in drought-tolerant plants from other areas. Then, running trails in the hills of East Orange made me curious about all the fragrant plants I was passing in my travels. A little research, a few impulse buys, a lot of dead manzanita until I learned about mounds...and now 90% of my landscape is natives or edible (or edible natives). Bonus: all the birds and lizards attracted by the native plants help keep the fruits and veggies happy. (And I don’t have to go trail running to experience the good smells of the chaparral.)”
Barbara Eisenstein: “I got interested in gardening with native plants when I moved here from the East Coast in 1996. I was homesick and disoriented by the different climate—missing summer thunderstorms, autumn foliage, spring rebirth, if not the long, cold winters. By planting natives I learned about what it takes to live in this strange but wonderful place.”

Dan Songster: “In 1975 I was asked to design a native garden for the science department at GWC and realized I knew nothing about native plants! So began a most rewarding journey discovering amazing plants and people along the way.”

Sarah Jayne: “I used to participate in as many Irvine Valley College Biology/Geology field trips as possible and thus was exposed to a great variety of native landscapes. I loved them all and when I acquired my small Irvine backyard, I wanted to have them all there. Of course I had to compromise and reduce my selections to my most favorite, which now includes a huge sycamore tree.”

Thanks to all who responded! Next issue’s question: “What native plant do you enjoy and recommend for use in a container?”

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

GOLDEN WEST COLLEGE NATIVE GARDEN
Fall Work Morning
Saturday, November 12, 9 – 1

Join us for an enjoyable morning among the plants and people that make up this unique garden. See the progress being made here. If you have never volunteered for such a project—you don’t know what you are missing.

• Work will begin at 9:00am and will involve planting in several areas in the Garden.
• Planting and watering will be finished around 1pm.
• Bring a favorite shovel, pair of gloves, sun-block, comfortable work shoes, and sack lunch if you plan to stay late.
• Rain? Please see notice below.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: There’s a Swap-Meet on weekends that involves the Golden West Street parking lot, so parking is difficult. You will likely have to park towards the northern end of the Golden West Street Lot, and walk south until you turn onto the campus itself after the Auto Technology Department Building. Another approach is to park in the Gothard Street parking lot on the opposite side of the campus near the Amphitheater and walk across.

Directions: Take Beach Blvd. north off the 405 Freeway, immediately running into McFadden, Turn left on McFadden to Golden West Street and turn left again. Take the first legal left-turn off Golden West Street into the parking lot and hunt for a parking place (see above!)

After parking walk onto campus between the Auto Diesel Building and the Garden Berm until you find the entrance on the right about 100 yards up the “road”.

Rain Notice: Light intermittent showers will not stop our planting day but steady rain will. In that case, the Planting Day will be moved to the following Saturday, November 19.

Questions? Need more information? Contact Dan Songster at 714 895-8161 or dsongster@gwc.cccd.edu

Golden West College
15744 Golden West Street
Huntington Beach 92647

IMPORTANT
Here are some of the things that matter when you come right down to it:

Good boots
and socks that will let you walk all day
Pants with pockets
and room to move
A belt
Layered shirts
and maybe a vest, depending on the weather

Sunglasses by day
and a hat of some sort
A bandana around your neck
for style and to absorb perspiration,
prevent sunburn,
and keep the ticks out
Of course your pack,
an extension of the person plenty stuff in
but not too much
A compass and a map
and a mental picture of their significance
in correlation to the ground you are covering
Water, enough
Binoculars -
nice to have them always around your neck

Whole new worlds open up to you with binoculars at the ready
Knowledge of your sleeping bag
and thoughts about it’s use later
(for now it is securely,
rolled tight in the bottom of your pack)
And rhythm -
maybe it stays with you by way of a walking stick depending on the terrain and your mood.

Mike Evans
October 2011
GARDEN TOUR 2012
Saturday, May 5, is the date set for the 2012 garden tour. Yes, that’s Cinco de Mayo, but it’s not the day before Mothers’ Day as it has been in previous years. Choosing a date for a garden tour, and especially a native plant garden tour, is not easy. For annuals, May is almost too late, but for some perennials, it’s too early. Then, of course, there are the Manzanitas and the Ceonothuses that bloom really early and the Zauschnerias that flower in July! Fortunately, there are gardens that are open to the public year-round such as the Golden West College Native Garden and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.

The special treat of our Orange County CNPS garden tour is that we get to see the work of many gardeners who use California native plants in a wide variety of settings and different stages of maturity. It’s a great opportunity to get ideas and share ideas.

We’ll be looking for gardens that feature our native plants as the solution to landscaping in our Mediterranean climate. Lots of lawns have been killed lately and replaced with less thirsty plantings. We’d love to have some more of those on the tour. Do-it-yourself or professionally designed, if you would like to share your garden, we would like to check it out.

What are the demands upon the gardener? Beforehand, a little extra TLC for the garden perhaps. The day of the tour, presence in the garden, if possible. It is a tiring day, but richly rewarding for all the positive feedback.

Don’t be shy, or think that your garden isn’t good enough or old enough or too big or too wild or too tame. Or—maybe you would just like to help with the tour?

Let us know.
2012 Garden Tour Committee: Sarah Jayne (sbjayne@cox.net) and Dori Ito (dito@socal.rr.com)

2012 CNPS CONSERVATION CONFERENCE
San Diego, January 10 - 14
Excitement is building as 2011 winds to a close and January 2012 fast approaches. Consult the conference brochure that all members received or visit cnps.org for a full list of workshops, keynote speakers, the many information-filled sessions, field trips, exhibitors and vendors, and special events. Don’t miss the poetry session or the songfest after Thursday night’s opening reception. Or the celebration of the arrival of the NEW Jepson Manual on Wednesday evening. All in all, this conference is sure to get everyone’s year off to a rollicking start!

The 2012 Conference Silent Auction Committee is looking for donations and committee members! The 2009 Conference Auction raised almost $10,000 for the CNPS Conservation Program; let’s beat our own record in the name of California’s native plants! Ideas for donations include: plant-themed handmade artwork, books, gardening accessories, jewelry, and other items of beauty, value, or interest. If you would like to donate, please fill out the Auction Donor Form available at the www.cnps.org website. If you do not have something special to donate please consider donating your time by joining the Silent Auction Committee and soliciting donations or volunteering at the conference. For questions about donations or volunteer opportunities please contact silentauktion2012@cnps.org.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER
A very warm welcome to all our new members in September and October—Sarah Kimball, Linda Steinke, Diane Bruneau, Jan Dehlsen, Jean Savage, Shirley and Ivor Hunt, Jan Weiner, Melissa Fowler, John Home, Ita Vardenbrock, Kelly Bridge, Patricia Daynelo, Erika Vandermost and Mark Gaines. In addition, we signed up many new members at our plant sale in early October. Those memberships are being processed and will be reported in the next newsletter.

Thanks, too, to all who have renewed. As a reminder, it’s easy to renew at cnps.org and to set up an automatic renewal.

We hope to see many of you at our meetings or other activities very soon. Please contact Laura Camp or Sarah Jayne (contact info on back page) if you have any questions about your membership.

10-13-11
in the early 50’s
a visit to aunt gladys & uncle earl’s
included a huge meal
and a sit in a huge
overstuffed chair
old wool mohair
short stubby &
scratchy
no matter how you sat
it was green
dark greeeeeen
& included antimacassars &
doily arm rests
the green was deep &
only looked soft
on the trail today
i found that deep green
in the cleft of a rock
deep dark rich green
a night of rain
followed by a night of snow &
almost instantly green
deep & soft to the touch
no scratch
no itch
no antimacassar
but a cushion just the same

yesterday’s rock
today’s pillow
the wonder of moss
the brilliance of green
late fall
not quite a winter’s day
i recall visits to aunt gladys & uncle earl

chuck wright
Ironwood Falls Trail
Pine Mountain Club, CA
October 9 — Native Plant Associations & Wildscaping
Speaker: Bob Allen
California is home to about 7,000 species of plants, southern California over 4,000 species (more than most entire states in the U.S.), and Orange County over 1,500 species (also more than many states). By comparison, our state hosts 47 amphibians, 77 reptiles, 600 birds, 209 mammals, and well over 30,000 species of insects! All of these life forms rely on plants for their survival.

Interactions among and between plants and other forms of wildlife are complex, variable, and fascinating. Some such as California lilacs, alders, and especially members of the pea family have an association with root-dwelling bacteria that capture gaseous nitrogen and convert it to a form useable by the host plant. Oaks and many others rely on some types of fungi that penetrate their roots and increase uptake of water and nutrients. Many invertebrates and vertebrates use plants for cover, shelter, food, and territory. Leaf-cutter bees carefully cut out circular pieces of leaves to build their nest. Many birds use plants as nest material, nest on plants, some even carve into the plant to make a nest. Several insects eat plant leaves, stems, flowers, roots, or fruits. Those insects are eaten by a broad suite of insect-eating arachnids, insects, frogs, toads, lizards, birds, and mammals. We’ll review some of these associations, local wildlife involved, and discuss techniques for wildscaping – landscaping with native plants to attract and promote wildlife.

Bob Allen is a nature photographer, author, instructor, and entomologist/botanist/pollination biologist in Orange County. Raised in San Juan Capistrano, he studied insects from a very early age. In high school, he was introduced to plants, became hooked, and bought his first copy of Philip Munz’s Flora of Southern California at age 15. He is currently putting the finishing touches on his eagerly awaited book, A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains.

December 15, 2011 — It’s you turn! Plus, a special treat
To open our program, Thea Gavin will present “The Brilliant North Rim: Poems and Images from a Barefoot Artist-in Residence.” Thea was selected as an Artist-in-Residence at Grand Canyon’s North Rim by the National Park Service and spent three weeks there in June. Not just a poetry reading or slide show, “The Brilliant North Rim” combines spoken word, written word, and photos in a vivid, accessible, and sometimes funny presentation of what Thea found compelling during her miles of wandering North Rim and Inner Canyon trails—barefoot.

Thea Gavin is a native of Orange, CA, where she still lives and hikes and writes, usually barefoot. An active CNPS member, Thea has been a volunteer naturalist with local land conservancies since 2004, and has been leading creative writing hikes for the last several years to help people connect to Orange County’s wild plants and lands. Her poems have appeared in a variety of literary magazines and several anthologies, including 2010’s New Poets of the American West. She teaches creative writing at Concordia University in Irvine.

After Thea’s presentation, everyone is invited to share some favorite photos of native plants, wildlife, habitats, or gardens—local, California, or anywhere in the world. As a reminder, each presenter will be limited to 5 minutes to make sure that everyone gets a turn—and that we get home before midnight. Someone will be holding a stopwatch and cracking the whip!

Digital photos must be in a standard digital photo format: .jpg, .png, or .psd. They can be fancied up with Powerpoint or Keynote. Submit them on a flash drive, portable hard drive, CD, or DVD. (Windows users: do NOT submit them as an autoexec .exe file). Video presentations must be in a standard video format: .mov (preferred), .avi, .wmv, or .mpeg. (Once again, Windows users, see above). Of course you may also bring photos for people to browse. For the digital stuff, please try to arrive early to allow time for your presentation to be transferred before the meeting.

The board members will provide a festive spread on the hospitality table. If you have a special holiday recipe you would like to share, feel free to bring it along.

CALENDAR
Nov 3 .......................... Board meeting
Nov 17 .......................... Chapter Meeting
Dec 2 - 4 ...... Chapter Council, Monterey
Dec 8 .......................... Board Meeting
Dec 15 .......................... Chapter Meeting
Jan 5 .......................... Board Meeting
Jan 10 – 14, 2012, CNPS Conservation Conference in San Diego
Jan 19 .......................... Chapter Meeting

Directions to the Duck Club:
The Duck Club is located in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary next to the IRWD water treatment facility. Access via Riparian View off Michelson is closed. The new entrance is off Campus Drive. 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 access to the 405. Or turn right on Carlson to Michelson for an easy return to Culver and vicinity. See our website for a map & other info.

Startled by the Scent of Mule Fat
You descend into ravine confusion sliced to pieces by the cool green knives of memory.

Looking Up
Pure egret wing-beats stitch a rhythm between clouds, mending the day’s tear.

Thea Gavin
CNPS Membership Application

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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 ________________________

Contact Information and Teams

**Officers (2011 – 2012)**

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

**Board 2010-2011:**

- **Sarah Jayne**: 949 552-0691  sbjayne@cox.net
- **Richard Schilk**: 949 351-7688  birdguy@naturalista.net
- **Dan Songster**: 949 768-0431  songster@cox.net

**Board 2011-2012:**

- **Celia Kutzer Vacant**

**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
- **Interest Center**: Bob Allen, Rich Schilk

**Conservation Team (Protect OC):**

- **Team Lead**: Celia Kutzer
- **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

[Yes, the newsletter is late! My fault. —The Ed.]