With the coming of autumn...

... CNPS activities begin to rev up again. Chapter meetings resume with a horticulture-themed talk by Lili Singer on September 15. The object here is to get everyone excited about the fall planting season and our Fall Plant Sale on October 8. The state-wide CNPS Chapter Council meeting takes place in San Diego September 10-11. All members are invited to attend. This year’s SBC Symposium on October 15 will be devoted entirely to the botanical diversity of Baja California and should be fascinating. At our October 20 meeting, Ron Vanderhoff will lead us on native plant adventures in the wilds of Orange County. So read on for all the facts and details of the “new” year. But first...

08-28-11
not much flower these days
  out in the wilds
  buckwheat’s flower heads
  boast beautifully their
  rich rust color
  fleabane asters looking bedraggled
  provide little nourishment
  for passing bees, wasps, flies &
  butterflies

spring is long past
  summer is about over
  fall is falling
  about time for
  winter’s rest

but wait
  this is the desert you say
  summer’s drought was a time for resting
  winter’s coolness & rain means
  let’s grow

a promise for newness &
  more to look for

Eriogonum fasciculatum
California Buckwheat
(not sure of sub-species)
and fleabane asters is a common name
and I don’t know which flower it really is

Dilley Preserve
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Orange County, CA

chuck wright

THE CONSERVATION REPORT

CONGRATULATIONS TO ENDANGERED HABITATS LEAGUE AS IT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION!
The Endangered Habitats League is dedicated to the protection of the diverse ecosystems of Southern California and to sensitive and sustainable land use for the benefit of all the region’s inhabitants. It was founded in 1991 at Starr Ranch Audubon Sanctuary as a coalition of environmental groups with the goal to get the California gnatcatcher listed as an endangered species, and to leverage that designation into protection of Coastal Sage Scrub throughout Southern California. In its two decades, EHL has expanded into a constellation of issues centered around habitat protection in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. It has had notable successes toward this goal, despite strong opposition from development forces of many kinds. See more on EHL, including what it’s done in OC, at http://ehl.halldatinc.com/Public/Newsletter/Default.aspx?ID=117.

ACTION NOW: While you’re at EHL’s website, make a donation to thank them for their tireless proactive work, which has helped put conservation in Southern California in a MUCH stronger position than it was 20 years ago.

OC GREEN VISION

- A new Green Vision Workshop, Smart Investments for Orange County’s Future, will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at the Duck Club. The workshop will focus on creative planning and implementation of sustainable development projects and linking land use to natural resource protection. Check-in begins at 9:30, the workshop is from 10 AM to 2:30 PM. Contact Melanie Schlotterbeck at melanie@schlotterbeck.net to register. Registration ends September 7; if you get this notice after the 7th, ask if you can attend anyway. Cost: $15 per person, payable at the door, includes lunch. Make checks payable to FHBP.

TRABUCO DISTRICT TO CONDUCT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

- The El Cariso Penny Pines and the Munhall and Indian pine plantations will have overstory and understory thinned and fuel reduction, including controlled burns, done under and around them. Treatment will not be done during nesting season. Quercus agrifolia and Q. chrysolepis in the treatment areas will not be thinned and will be protected from burning. These projects are expected to take about five years to complete.
- The Elsinore Peak project will apply a combination of cutting and controlled burns to about 70 acres per year in an area south and east of Rancho Capistrano. All occupied Munz’ onion habitat will be avoided. A 50-100-ft.

buffer zone will separate all meadows from project activities. It will take about ten years to complete the project.

Notice of this project was received too late for our previous newsletter, unfortunately, and the public comment period closed on July 26. If you would like more details and/or .pdf maps of the project areas, contact celia552@cox.net.

—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 “What are some of your favorite nurseries that supply at least some natives—near or far?” Answers are listed in the order received.

Susan Krzywicki: “Las Pilitas, in Escondido is a wonderful natural site - hills up and beyond the nursery. They sell only natives! And their website, www.laspilitas.com, is fabulous for its generous sharing of information. Also Moosacreek (www.moosacreek-nursery.com) is a native plant grower—and they work with local nurseries to put natives on display with a store within the nursery that is well-branded and a good resource. If your local nursery would like to offer natives, this is a good way for them to get started.”

Charles (Chuck) Wright: “Shop local if you can and for me that means Tree of Life. But in the mountains there is a lovely little nursery in Lebec called Wild at Heart, and Linda carries quite a few natives and she will gladly order whatever you need, which sure beats driving to Las Pilitas near San Luis Obispo. I’ve especially enjoyed shopping at CNPS sales both here and in Bakersfield. Now there are places where you can collect seeds and I find that this is the best way to go since you know what it is and where it came from. I’ve purchased seed from Theodore Payne and planted Jeffrey Pine that I bought there. The help there is outstanding, much better than on-line or catalog. Celia has helped me pick appropriate stuff for the mountain place and so have the folks at Tree of Life. You get what you pay for.”

Barbara Eisenstein: “There are not that many nurseries that sell and are knowledgeable about CA native plants. Of course Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden’s Grow Native Nurseries (Claremont from Nov - May and the new Westwood branch open all year) are my favorites since I have lovingly labeled, selected, helped grow, and worked with these plants and the people buying them. The other nursery I would highly encourage people to check out is Nopalito Native Plant Nursery in Ventura (http://www.nopalitonursery.com/) Though not exclusively native plants, the selection is great, the staff helpful and the blog and classes fun. Check it out. Of course there are many other wonderful native plant nurseries and plant sales (like those held by CNPS chapters). Note: Barabara Eisenstein concluded with this, “I posted a more comprehensive list of plant sales and wholesale and retail nurseries on my WeedingWildSuburbia website (http://weedingwildsuburbia.com/articles/Where_to_get_110728.pdf).”

Dan Songster: “Even after traveling the state and seeing many of the nurseries that sell natives, I am still impressed with Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. Owners Mike Evans and Jeff Bohn have surrounded themselves with a great group of people, in a wonderful setting, with healthy plants. There is always something new there and I always feel better after visiting the nursery. The Grow Native Nursery at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont is also fun with the unexpected here and there and such a wide range of plants. It is also nice to know your money is going towards supporting the Botanic Garden.”

Christiane Shannon: “The foremost place from which I buy the native plants for my garden is Tree of Life Nursery on Ortega Hwy. Sometimes I go to Rancho Santa Anna Botanic Garden in Claremont, however there is a lot of pushing and shoving during the fall plant sale there, while at TOL the atmosphere is always pleasant and even more so when volunteers from OCNPS are helping on the day of the big fall plant sale.”

Dick Newell: “Is there another other than T.O. L. ?”

Hali Mason: “West Valley Nursery on Ventura Blvd., in Tarzana; limited supply of good looking healthy plants; John will get whatever he has not in his nursery. Sperling Nursey in Calabasas; limited supply of good looking healthy plants. Both nurseries are in the San Fernando Valley of the Los Angeles area.”

Alan Lindsay: “When I shop for a plant, I’m usually looking for something specific and unique. Therefore, I first try the Tree Of Life Nursery because of its diversity, quantity and quality. If I can’t find what I’m looking for there, I turn to Santa Barbara and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. A long time ago I shopped at the Fullerton Arboretum; I should give them another try.”

Celia Kucher: “Tree Of Life, of course!”

Thanks to all who responded! Next issue’s question: “How did you get interested in gardening/growing with native plants?”

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

California Native Grasslands Association September Workshops

Let the experts from the California Native Grasslands Association (CNGA) show you how to use native grasses, sedges, and rushes successfully in a variety of settings to create beautiful residential, commercial, and public landscapes. Besides saving water, native grasses can rebuild soil and prevent erosion, enhance wildlife habitat, and lower maintenance costs. The latest applications of native grasses for treatment, attenuation, and infiltration of storm water in bio-swales will be addressed. This workshop is appropriate for landscape architects and contractors, engineers, planners, parks & recreation staff, biologists, regulatory staff, land & resource managers, nursery practitioners, and homeowners.

The workshop is offered twice: one in Fallbrook at the FPUD building on September 29, 2011 from 8 AM to 4 PM and one in Arcadia at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden on September 30 from 8 AM to 4 PM. Cost is $140. Registration and flyer are available at our website—http://www.cnag.org/get_involved/workshops

SCB SYMPOSIUM

For information on the Southern California Botanist 37th Annual Symposium—Baja ¡Aha! Botanical Diversity of the Peninsula, go to the SCB website at http://socalbot.org

Chapter Council Meeting

Details about this state-wide gathering of CNPS folk can be found at https://sites.google.com/site/cnpschaptercouncilsept2011

Populus fremontii

FREMONT COTTONWOOD
from A Natural History of Western Trees, by Donald Culross Peattie. Illustrations by Paul Landacre
Chapter Meetings

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

September 15—Natives that will work in your garden!

Speaker: Lili Singer

We all know about the good things that come with planting natives: Great colors and fragrances, wonderful habitat value, lower water bills, and a sense of place with seasons related to our southern California region. There is not any better time to plant natives than in the months coming up. Buy the plants that will work in your landscape at our chapter plant sale at Tree of Life Nursery on October 8. Of course, when deciding which plants to get for our gardens there are always practical questions that come to mind. What plants are the best for the specific situations I have in MY garden? What plants will cover that hot hillside in the back or thrive in that shady spot? What natives will provide that cool green despite dry conditions and what plants will give me color for up to 6 months? What native would take the clay soils I have or provide a ground cover in my front yard? What upright native can I use to screen a neighbor’s yard or hide a wall and what can I use in containers on my tiny patio?

Whatever your level of expertise with native plants, there is always something new to learn about growing our wonderful natives and Lili has the knowledge to teach us!

Lili Singer is a horticulturist, educator and garden writer (most recently for the LA Times), and Director of Special Projects and Adult Education for the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants in Sun Valley, CA. She also heads the Thursday Garden Talks at the LA Arboretum & Botanic Garden in Arcadia. Many of us remember that she published and edited two award-winning periodicals, The Southern California Gardener and The Gardener’s Companion, and for more than a decade hosted “The Garden Show,” a live call-in radio program on KCRW-fm. A southern California native herself, this engaging and knowledgeable speaker lives and gardens on one-third acre of tree-shaded land in Van Nuys.

October 20—Off the Path with Ron: Native Plant Adventures in the Wilds of Orange County

Speaker: Ron Vanderhoff

Many of you who know our October speaker as the Clark Kent of horticulture. A neat, mild mannered plantsman at Roger’s Garden on most days, Ron provides calm and practical gardening advice on almost any subject at the drop of a hat. But on his days off from work, a California native plant Superman emerges! He becomes a single-minded and unstoppable searcher of the wild plants (and animals, insects, birds, geology, etc.) of our Orange County hills and canyons! Even Poison Oak does not stop this superhero!

Join us on an adventure sure to get you excited about exploring Orange County as Ron takes us all on a journey to some of the most interesting local places he has explored and some of the flora and fauna he has found during the last two or three years. This is a program everyone will enjoy with great photographs, interesting stories and descriptions, and a glimpse into the Orange County that still exists if we just choose to get off the beaten path.

Ron Vanderhoff is a lifelong southern California gardener and an inspiring and respected professional horticulturist who is especially fascinated with our native flora and its potential for use in urban landscapes. Ron has worked his whole life in horticulture, and for the past many years he has been a leader in the local gardening community as an educator, writer, lecturer and innovator, and as the nursery manager at Roger’s Gardens where he leads a push for sustainable gardens in Orange County, such as with the California Friendly Garden Contest (in which OC-CNPS is a partner). Ron writes a popular weekly newspaper column, The Coastal Gardener, and has contributed to many newspaper and magazine articles as well as radio and television programs. He is a special contributor to The Sunset Western Garden Book.

Ron’s keen curiosity and thirst for adventure fuel his explorations into our local wildlands and this talk will be a good foretaste of an OC-CNPS Field Trip he is planning for Spring, 2012. Stay tuned!
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 ____________________________________

Contact Information and Teams

Officers (2011 – 2012)

President: Brad Jenkins 714 730-6023 bradijenkins@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Laura Camp 949 370-3033 laurarctreeoflifenursery.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 714 351-7688 birdguy@naturalista.net
Dan Songster 949 768-0431 songster@cox.net

Board 2011-2012:

Celia Kutcher 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 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
Website: Rich Schilk

Education Team:

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

A very big welcome to our new members since May – Marilyn Bardet, Nada and Jim Chatwell, George Liddle, Leslie Shattuck, Christine Fhur, Lauren Heitner, Amy Nigro, Diana Weir, Karin Klein, Tim Maas, Teresa Ross, Matthew Major, and Steve and Anita Widmayer.

Everyone should come to our chapter plant sale on October the 8th at Tree of Life Nursery, for the great informative talks and to buy gorgeous plants. Member discounts of 10% will be available on sale day, all corners of the nursery will be scoured for unusual and special items to share with CNPS members, each member will receive a free plant, and expect more surprises. Share the flyer in this newsletter and bring a friend, too.

—Laura Camp, Membership

CNPS
Orange County Chapter
California Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 54891
Irvine CA 92619-4891

September/October 2011

FIRST CLASS MAIL
California Native Plant Society
Orange County Chapter

Native Plant Sale!

Saturday, October 8, 2011
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Talks for Different Garden Situations
10 am: Plants for Slopes and How to Plant Them
11 am: Green and Lush Plantings for Low Water Use
12 pm: Plants for Hummingbird Gardens
1 pm: Plants for Butterfly Gardens
2 pm: Accent Plants that say “California”

Member Sale Day! - Free plant and 10% discount for all members
Join or renew at the sale!

Great selection with expert advice available. Plant in fall for maximum success!

Location: Tree of Life Nursery
33201 Ortega Highway,
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
(949) 728-0685
www.californianativeplants.com

www.occnps.org
The CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference has Something for Everyone!

The upcoming statewide CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference, in San Diego, January 10-14, 2012 is an opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate everything we do as a leading plant conservation organization in California. Our membership includes top level scientists and decision-makers in agencies, universities, consulting firms, and non-profit environmental organizations as well as the grassroots activists working hard on the front lines. We will all join hands at the conference and share what we know and how we do it. Hundreds of CNPS volunteers from chapters throughout the state have contributed to the planning and execution of this event over the last two and a half years. There are sessions and activities for everyone from career botanists to garden enthusiasts.

The committees have planned 5 days of non-stop workshops, talks, and social and art events. You could learn how to start a plant restoration nursery at a workshop, listen to talks on a particular rare plant or invasive species, or contribute to a conversation about CEQA or desert energy projects. There will be five sessions focusing on regional issues from north to south, including those of Baja California. To nourish your appreciation of our native landscape you may choose to take a drawing workshop with John Muir Laws, read a poem, submit a photograph, admire botanical art, or sing and play music. There will be opportunities to take action on your subject of interest and numerous social events where you will see and meet CNPS members and other experts from all over the state and beyond.

Registration is now open for both the conference events and the hotel. Early registration discounts are available until Oct 31, with additional discounts for CNPS members and students. Special CNPS conference discounts are available at the conference hotel, the Town and Country Resort, until Dec 16 or until all rooms are taken. You may register for the conference and/or the hotel through our website at www.CNPS.org/2012.

There are a million ways that you can participate in this conference from presenting or attending talks to taking tickets at the door. We need scores of volunteers during the days of the conference and we offer registration rebates to all volunteers who work eight hours or more. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Michelle Cox, at volunteers2012@cnps.org.

If you are a student or know students who might want to attend the conference, check out the Student Opportunities and Activities (including registration and/or travel stipend funding) on our conference website, www.cnps.org/2012.

Please visit the conference website, www.cnps.org/2012, for up to date information on all the events. We hope to see you there!

—Josie Crawford, Conference Coordinator