Many OC cities, agencies, groups (including OCCNPS) and individuals supported the site’s long-planned NCCP/HCP role during the Environmental Assessment process for transfer of the El Toro site from the FAA to the FBI, last spring. The FBI’s responses show that it does not recognize:

1. The absolute importance of the property to functioning of the wildlife corridor—one of the NCCP/HCP’s prime purposes.
2. That the wildlife corridor is constrained to passing through the El Toro Natural Area by the residential development all around the property, emplaced since 1996.

After the transfer, Laguna Greenbelt, Endangered Habitats League, Natural Resources Defense Council, and a number of local and regional enviro groups teamed up to pursue other possibilities (mainly local and regional political) to gain the FBI’s cooperation with NCCP/HCP goals. Those possibilities have been exhausted. The team has unanimously concluded that legal means will have to be employed to gain some traction in negotiations toward the FBI’s cooperation. A legal team has been assembled, of multiple law firms and some of the best attorneys for the federal issues involved. Though much work will be done pro bono, $20,000 to $50,000 is needed to cover the law firms’ out of pocket expenses.

**ACTION NOW:** Send a donation by the end of September, marked “El Toro,” to: Endangered Habitats League, 8424 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite A 592, Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267.

**Congratulations to the Bolsa Chica Land Trust for “20 years of Saving It Not Paving It!”** The Trust is celebrating with a Birthday Gala, Sept. 15, 2012, 6-10 PM; details at bolsachicalandtrust.org/. All event proceeds will go towards land acquisition—helping to set the tone for Bolsa Chica’s next 20 years!

**See the rest of this issue’s Conservation Report on our website, occnps.org:**

- THE CADIZ WATER PROJECT
- CHINO HILLS FIRE STUDY
- THE FOOTHILL TOLL ROAD, AGAIN!
- OC GREEN VISION WORKSHOP, SEPT. 22
- UPDATE: SADDLE CREST APPROVED
- UPDATE: SUNSET PARK APPROVED

—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 natives do you grow for fall color?” Answers listed in order received.

Leon Baginski—“I like California fuchsia for reds but if you want spectacular large yellows, nothing beats Hooker’s evening primrose. It is a bit unpredictable, but usually I...”
can get blooms to continue into August if the plant is in a cooler part of the yard with some shade. It can be a bit invasive, but is pretty easy to control.”

Rama Nayeri—“My choice is torn between the Cleveland Sage and the Red Monkey Flower. On one hand I love the flowers of the Cleveland Sage combined with the smell. On the other hand I love how the Red Monkey Flower changes from coral to red.”

Christiane Shannon—“Fall color in my garden is only provided by the Epilobiums (California fuchsias, *E. californica var. cana* and var. ‘Catalina’). They can be a bit invasive but they are easily controlled and more than make up for the trouble by blooming profusely in the fall. The hummingbirds enjoy them greatly at that time of year.”

Ron Vanderhoff—“The shiny green leaves of some of the Berberis species, *B. aquifolium*, *B. pinnata*, and *B. repens*, become accented with a bright scarlet color when the temperatures drop in fall.”

Orchid Black—“I have high expectations for my newly planted (half native) Roger’s Red grapevine to engulf and inflame my trellised cinderblock wall with its brilliant fall colors.”

Dori Ito—“California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) brightens my back yard with brilliant red trumpet flowers in late summer and fall.”

Thea Gavin—“For seasonal leaf color I have several native grape vines climbing on fences and trellises. (Or almost-native—*Vitis californica* “Roger’s Red” has now been declared a hybrid. I still love its flaming red leaf-change.)

Sarah Jayne—“Western Sycamore provides plenty of fall color and as the golden leaves fall, they reveal the intricate pattern of its branches. My small garden is a western sycamore.

Dan Songster—“I love all the buckwheats in the fall as the flowers turn to rust, but over the last couple of years I have been particularly smitten with the Conejo buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*). The flowers, sitting on the silver leaves, turn from their spring chartreuse to a rich chocolate by September. After all, brown is a color too!”

[A bit unruly for most gardens, Golden Bush adds abundant sparklets of yellow to nature’s fall landscapes. The Ed.]

Thanks to all who responded! Next issue’s question: “What is the dominant style or theme of the native garden you have installed (or are planning to install) to replace your lawn? (Examples: Community-based design; woodsly; habitat; local only, native/Mediterranean mix, etc?)” Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Please remember to keep replies brief so we can include most of the responses!

—Dan Songster

Late Summer Morning

*Santiago Creek*

Down here in the chill rock-carcass path that was winter’s river, I am filled with the green sighs of mule fat and willow. Although their root-toes disappear in the dust trees somehow remain until rains return.

My feet flex around morning-cold stones to follow a trail that leaps out of shadow: the half-gold hills speak how light follows gray—the rocks and I wait, listen and pray.

Thea Gavin

Field Trips—2012

**Sunday, November 18—Fall Color Trip, Trabuco Canyon to Falls Canyon**

We will hope for clear fall skies and brisk fall temperature as we celebrate the colors of the season right here in Orange County. The drive up the gravel road of Trabuco Canyon is an adventure in itself, but we won’t go all the way to the end (unless a few brave souls insist). We will stop just slightly inside the National Forest boundary where the Big Leaf Maples and Western Sycamore usually glow at this time of the year. After a brief enjoyment of the canyon and its colors we will hike one mile up little known, but beautiful and shaded Falls Canyon. With luck (fall rains) we will end at a beautiful 30 foot waterfall. Along the way we will explore for plants, seeds, fall fruits, lots more fall color and other signs of the season.

Meet 8 AM at the intersection of Trabuco Canyon Road and the obvious gravel wash of Trabuco Creek (at the unsigned Trabuco Creek Road). This is just 150 yards SE of Rose Canyon Road (signed). Free and open to all. Bring trail shoes, hat, sunscreen, water. No restrooms or water. A USFS Adventure Pass is required for parking at the trailhead. Leader: Ron Vanderhoff, assisted by Mike and Cathie Field.

**Physical Difficulty:** Moderate to moderately strenuous. **Plant Intensity:** Moderate. **Time:** Approx. 2 hours, not including the drive up and back on Trabuco Creek Road.

A LOOK AT ORANGE COUNTY GRASSES IN JEPSON 2

Many of you have the new Jepson Manual and have had a chance to thumb through it. You may have noticed that under the grasses (Poaceae), there have been quite a few changes since the first Jepson Manual was published in 1993. If splitting became the theme of the Asteraceae, the Poaceae went the opposite way, with re-unification of traditional genera the main theme. Three genera especially stand out: *Stipa, Elymus*, and *Festuca*. *Achnatherum* and *Nasella*, the needlegrasses, are once again *Stipa, Piptatherum* (rice grass) is tossed in for good measure.

*Leymus* is once again folded back into *Elymus* (wild rye). Not only was the annual genus *Vulpia* returned to *Festuca* (fescues) as subgenus, so were plants we’ve long known under the genus *Lolium*.

For those of you that are interested and not sure you really want to go to the trouble of figuring out what happened to your favorite Orange County grass, the changes are summarized for you at occnps.org. Vascular Plants of Orange County, an Annotated Checklist (Roberts 2008) already reflects many of these changes.
Chapter Meetings
Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except July and August. Unless otherwise stated, meetings take place at the Duck Club in Irvine. Doors open at 6:45 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

Thursday, September 20: CNPS—Protecting California’s native flora for (almost) half a century... and counting
Speaker: Greg Suba
The native flora of California is unlike any other in the world. From the richly colored spring wildflowers in the desert to groves of Monterey cypress on the coast, California’s wild gardens are awe-inspiring in their beauty.
Since 1965, members of the California Native Plant Society have worked to protect California’s native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations. Our work continues at a most critical time. Increases in urban and agricultural growth, the spread of nonnative weeds, and inadequate land use planning have elevated the need to protect California’s essential native plant diversity.
To reverse this trend, the CNPS Conservation Program promotes sound plant science as the backbone of effective natural areas protection. We work closely with decision-makers, scientists, and local planners to advocate for well-informed and environmentally friendly policies, regulations, and land management practices.
Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Director since 2009, will describe the work of our statewide conservation program. His presentation will give special emphasis to the challenges associated with advocating effective plant conservation while addressing the planning and development of desert wind and solar projects.
Greg has also worked as a watershed coordinator, science educator, and biological consultant in northern California, and spent several years monitoring streams and surveying forests throughout the state.

Thursday, October 18: Native Plants For The Small Garden
Speaker: Celia Kutcher
A “small garden” can be anything from a large container to an average-sized suburban yard. This talk will cover some of the many California natives that are naturally small or can easily be managed to not overwhelm a small garden. Most look good close up year-round, and require little water other than natural rainfall once established.
Celia Kutcher is our chapter’s Conservation Chair and is active in OC environmental issues. She was Curator of the Plant Collection at the Fullerton Arboretum from 1978 to 2000, and volunteered in the native collection at the UCI Arboretum, 2001 to 2008. She has a Bachelor’s degree in Biology with botany and plant ecology emphasis and a Master’s degree in Environmental Studies. Most of all, she loves gardening, is a life-long plant person, and has grown a native garden in her 30’x30’ front yard since 1990.

Directions to the Duck Club
The Duck Club is located in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary next to the IRWD water treatment facility. Access is off Campus Drive. To get there:
From Jamboree, go south on Michelson to Harvard Avenue. 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.
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.

Save our Desert Flora
CNPS began 2012 with a Conservation Conference in San Diego, and at the conference launched a campaign to raise funds for the CNPS Conservation program. This statewide program costs $120,000 per year and supports the director, Greg Suba, and related expenses.
Greg works in many areas of California native plant conservation, but his greatest efforts in the last two years have been in the area of desert renewable energy development. Our pristine deserts are under attack from right, left, and center. Development interests and energy companies wish to build solar and wind farms. Government agencies urgently promote renewable energy to address the need for power for a growing population. Environmentalists fear looming global climate change and are desperate to convert our current oil/coal power dependence to renewable sources.
None of these priorities is inherently bad, but in the rush to “do something” large swaths of our irreplaceable deserts are in danger of being destroyed forever. The CNPS Conservation Program’s Greg Suba has worked tirelessly for our desert flora, our rare, precious and diverse treasures that are little understood or appreciated. No one but CNPS speaks primarily for the plants that are the basis for all life in the desert.
The goal of the 2012 Conservation Campaign is to raise $100,000, or about $12 per member. So far, $65,000 has been raised, including $2,000 from Orange County chapter members. Please consider a $12 contribution to the campaign today—or more if you can. By the end of the year, I will report back on the Campaign results and Orange County’s contribution, and I would like to see our total grow to $5,000. For much more information and to contribute, go to cnps.org and click on “Conservation Campaign”, or mail to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

—Laura Camp

Membership Corner
Welcome to our newest members: Jeff Robson, Jon Decesare, Mike Shukur, Henry DiRocco, Albert Finnerty, Elizabeth Braley, Stephen Sims, Michele Musacchio, Chris Hughes, Tina Sommers-Bernhardt and Shawn Pendley Fichtner. We are delighted to connect you to our growing group.
Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships. During the first half of 2012, the Orange County chapter of CNPS added more net members, after considering non-renewals, than any other chapter in the state! We appreciate your confidence and look forward to continuing to meet your needs for information, field trips, community and more.

—Laura Camp, Membership Chair
CNPS Membership Application

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

☐ 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

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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 2012-2014:
Sarah Jayne 949 552-0691 sbjayne@cox.net
Rob Moore 949 768-0431 robmoore@dslextreme.com
Dan Songster 949 768-0431 songster@cox.net
Ron Vanderhoff 949 768-0431 ronv@rogersgardens.com

Board 2011-2012:
Celia Kutcher 949 496-9689 celia552@cox.net
Cathie Field 949 552-0691 micafield@cox.net
Mike Field 949 496-9689 micafield@cox.net

Membership Team:
Team Lead: Laura Camp
Volunteer Coordinator: Diane Wolfenberg
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, Rob Moore

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 Trips: Ron Vanderhoff
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

September/October 2012