Thursday, July 18: Chapter Meeting at the Duck Club
Wait a minute—an OC-CNPS Meetings in Summer?! Must be something really special—for as many of you know we normally go dormant during the summer months, like many of our local plants. But his year something huge has occurred to wake us up:

The Book Arrives!!
The eagerly awaited book on the flora of Orange County by Bob Allen and Fred Roberts is very soon to be in our hands and we are celebrating! Meetings will be held in various parts of the county to make it easy for folks to come and get their copy(s) autographed and have fun doing it.

Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains
By Robert L. Allen and Fred M. Roberts, Jr.

Events scheduled include:
Thursday, July 18—7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Duck Club, Irvine (directions on page 3)
At our normal Chapter meeting spot, the Duck Club in Irvine, enjoy a presentation by both Bob Allen and Fred Roberts about the creation of the book and book signing. Snacks and beverages provided—a fun night guaranteed!

Friday, July 26—4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Tree of Life Nursery (go to www.californianativeplants.com/)
OC-CNPS is joining Tree of Life Nursery, Bob Allen and Fred Roberts, and many special guests in the rolling hills above San Juan Capistrano. We are throwing a party to celebrate this outstanding publication and the authors who have stuck with this project for so long. Door prize, raffle, pot-luck canapés, books available, and author signing of course.

Wednesday, August 7—6:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Fullerton Arboretum (fullertonarboretum.org)
We are joining with the wonderful people at the Fullerton Arboretum who are having a special night including a presentation and book signing. Books will be available and both authors will be there to sign your copy!

Note: A $5 per person charge for this event will go towards defraying the evening’s expenses and helping the Arboretum’s gardens. This is a chance to get your autographed book, enjoy a presentation, and help support the beautiful gardens at the Arboretum!

By the Way: Our good friends at Sea and Sage Audubon are also having a presentation and book signing on Saturday, July 27, in Irvine. Go to seaandsageaudubon.org for details.

Can’t get to an event but want the book? If you would like to purchase a book from OC-CNPS and have it shipped to you, consult our Website at: www.occnps.org/

For other Book related events throughout the county in the next few months please consult the Events Calendar on the publishers Website at: www.lagunawildernesspress.com
Native Gardener’s Corner—Members’ 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. Answers are listed in order received.

The question: “What is one of your favorite native plants that requires the “least” maintenance & what care do you give it?”

Laura Camp: “Dudleys, our gorgeous native succulents, are as carefree as possible. Put them in the ground and completely ignore them, or in a pot and water every once in awhile. My favorite is Dudleya pulverulenta, chalk dudleya.”

Bob Allen: “Gray coast or ash-leaved Buckwheat, Eriogonum cinereum. A beautiful mounded shrub that is not used as often as it should be. Soft, lovely leaves, prolific flowers, and an interesting branching structure. It prefers quick-draining soils, bright sun to partial shade, and needs no pampering.”

Alison Shilling-“Isomeris arborea” = Bladderpod: A 4' tall and wide shrub. Needs: very little water, just the occasional pruning if a branch gets ‘floppy’. Yellow flowers about 10 months per year are popular with hummers and bees. Flourishes in both heavy and sandy soil.”

Allan Schoenherr-“I can’t say it is my favorite, but Seaside Daisy (Eriogonum glaucum) ranks right up there. It spreads by rhizomes and makes a beautiful low-growing ground cover. It blooms profusely. It has bright blue to violet rays with yellow disc flowers that cover the plants, forming a welcome blast of color. It takes a bit of water from time to time, but loves the coastal climate.”

Christian Shanno-“In the poor rocky soil of my garden, the sages are particularly reliable and rewarding, looking great all year, with additional water however since the substrate does not retain moisture. They are the foundation of my garden beside the trees, Salvia leucophylla, S. aromas, S. mellifera, S. apiana and S. “Desperado”, to mention only a few. In addition to their enjoyable fragrances they attract many birds offering them cover and food (seeds and insects). In addition, Eriogonum fasciculatum and the cultivar E. f. ‘Dana Point’ have to be mentioned here. All these plants have to be given lots of room to produce their best display with maybe a slight exception, E. f. ‘Dana Point’ that grows slower than the others.”

Celia Kutcher-“California poppies are in my ‘least maintenance’ category: they reseed, grow, bloom & reseed with NO effort from me. Their “maintenance” consists of removing their spring overabundance from where they will overwhelm less vigorous plants, selectively removing spent ones before their seed ripens (to cut down on the amount that will sprout next spring), & cutting down their remains as part of fall cleanup.”

Rob Moore-“One of my favorite native plants that requires little or no maintenance would be Artemisia ‘Montara’. It has a low profile (2’x4”) making it the perfect size for the suburban garden. A. Montara has a naturally full look, is tolerant of summer irrigation, and makes a great accent specimen. I use it all the time in sunny or part shade gardens!”

Chuck Wright-“I would have to say blue-eyed grass. It is such a cheerful bloomer that self seeds. When it looks ratty, I whack it back almost to the ground. It has been in my little yard for years and keeps on blooming.”

Summer Romance
Who are you wooing, handsome lizard? Are those push-ups meant for me?

Good Morning Birds
If the sun is low and you are high
on a ridge, towhees
surprised between you
and the light
flash and flicker
with a quicksilver splash
of wing over the chill
river of canyon air—
you were in the shadows
once, but now
you’ve made it to the place
where your plopping startles
the birds into miracle.

Thea Gavin

Orchid Black-“Baccharis 'Pigeon Point’ is the original low-maintenance groundcover for slopes, especially near the Wildland-Urban-Interface, or the fire zone. No pruning necessary if given adequate space—approximately 7”—and minimal deep watering once established. This dependable plant also has wildlife value.”

Dan Songster-“Buckwheats—I love them. Put them in, quick establishment, and then limit water and enjoy! Maybe some deadheading in late fall or early winter on the larger forms (if you feel like it). Especially easy is St. Catherine’s Lace (Eriogonum giganteum), California Buckwheat (E. fasciculatum) and the cultivars like ‘Dana Point’, and Red-Flowered Buckwheat (E. var. rubescens). Even that chartreuse beauty Saffron Buckwheat (E. crocatum) works in the clay soil at the Garden!**”

Sarah Jayne-“Four years ago I planted a Humboldt Lily with no great hopes for its survival, but here it is again, on its fourth appearance in my garden. A dying lemonadeberry removed last fall now exposes it to full afternoon sun—not good. Nevertheless, I hope it will perform again as it has for the past three years—sprout, bloom, wither, disappear, and magically reappearin the spring—all without any interference from me.”

In honor of our new book “Wildflowers of Orange County” by Bob Allen and Fred Roberts, our next question is: “If you could see one plant in its natural Orange County habitat, what would it be and why?” Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net

ROB MOORE—THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE
Rob is a talented landscape designer dedicated to using natives in his designs. He has helped the chapter with various events in the last few years, so when we asked him to serve on our board it came as no surprise when he said yes. Rob joined the board in January of 2012. Since then he has been an active participant in chapter business and events. He also served as an assistant editor of the recent native horticulture issue of Fremontia.
Life’s events often take us in unforeseen directions though, and Rob has let us know he must step down from his board position due to time constraints. We will miss Rob’s warm personality and generous service to the Chapter, and wish him the very best.
THE CONSERVATION REPORT

SADDLE CREST LITIGATION CONTINUES

In October 2012, CNPS became a co-petitioner (with Saddleback Canyons Conservancy, Rural Canyons Conservation Fund, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, and Audubon California) in the lawsuit against the OC Board of Supervisors’ approval of the Saddle Crest development. (See background in the Nov./Dec. 2012 and Jan./Feb. 2013 Conservation Reports and links therein.) Since then, the lawsuit has been making its way through the legal process and at press time is awaiting the setting of a court hearing date.

ACTION NOW: Help support this litigation by donating to fhbp.org/programs/saddleback-canyons.html.

MORE THREATS TO NORTH OC OPEN SPACE

1. Three major housing developments are proposed on the borders of Chino Hills State Parks and the Chino-Puente Hills Wildlife Corridor. One project is in the City of Brea, the other two in the City of Yorba Linda, all are in some stage of the approval process.

Hills For Everyone is spearheading the campaign to protect these important properties. If these developments are approved, HFE will need to act quickly and nimbly on next steps, such as litigation.

ACTION NOW: Donate to HFE’s war chest at hillsforeveryone.org/donate/index.html.

2. A high-density housing development has been proposed for the old Sully-Miller sand and gravel property, located in Santiago Creek’s floodplain in East Orange. The proposal ignores that the site has long been designated as permanent open space in four plans adopted by the City of Orange:

- Santa Ana River/Santiago Creek Greenbelt Plan (1971)
- Orange Park Acres Specific Plan (1973)
- East Orange Community Plan (1975)
- Santiago Creek Implementation Plan (1976)

The proposed development, Rio Santiago, would essentially rewrite all four Plans and also make major changes to the City of Orange’s General Plan, so that they fit the project—instead of making the project fit the Plans.

ACTION NOW: Contact laurathomas_opa@hotmail.com to find out how you can help with next steps. The DEIR comment period ended July 1; City hearings will follow.

SAFE TRAILS COALITION

OCCNPS has joined the new Safe Trails Coalition (STC), founded by Audubon California, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, and Sierra Club.

The Coalition supports all trail users who:

- Use the existing network of authorized trails.
- Are willing to ensure native plants and wildlife and other natural resources are protected.
- Agree that all trail users and park visitors are entitled to a safe and enjoyable experience in our wildlands.

STC’s main focus is on the problems caused by misuse and abuse of the trail systems within OC’s protected natural lands. Its Position Paper can be downloaded at fhbp.org/PDFs/Safe-Trails-Position-Paper-2013.pdf.

ACTION NOW: Sign on as an individual member of STC at GreenVision@fhbp.org, preferably by July 12—but new members are welcome at any time.

Save the Date: On Sept. 26th STC will host a workshop to discuss the issues and brainstorm possible solutions. Contact GreenVision@fhbp.org for time and location.

—Celia Kutcher

MEMBERSHIP CORNER: We have just closed another eventful year of activities, and the Orange County chapter is growing and thriving. Celia Kutcher prepared a wonderful photo essay of our activities during the last year; if you haven’t seen it, here it is: http://occnps.org/your-chapter/activities/262-chapter-activities-2012-2013.html

In March, at the statewide quarterly meeting of the CNPS chapters called Chapter Council, the Orange County chapter was honored for achieving the highest growth, in total membership, of any of the 33 chapters during 2012! When you view the chapter activities slideshow above, you can see why we are growing. Our dedicated field trip, webmaster, newsletter, program, conservation, garden tour, symposium, and other volunteer leaders are bringing programs to Orange County that provide great information, and native plant fellowship. We thank you, the members of our chapter, for your continued support and appreciate and rely on each and every one of you.

Speaking of chapters, CNPS welcomes its 34th, the Baja Chapter, to the fold. Hopefully exciting connections with our Baja brethren will be forthcoming!

Finally, we thank and acknowledge our newest members in March, April and May—welcome, welcome!

Cindy Black, Judy Blake, Mike Bressler, Konnor Bush, Susan Carlin, Beckie Collett, Anne Delgadillo, Brendan Dellerba, Ellygra Di Lalla, Steven Domines, Darla Doxstater, Mark Evans, Benjamin Flock, Linda Franson, Charlotte Gulsby, Sarah Jenevein, Harold Koopowitz, Alex Koutzoukis, Andrew Lazere, Bernard Maniscalco, Grace McElhinney, Ian McErlane, Roger Merle, Julie Payn, George Robertson, Sheilagh Robinson, Kate Roger, Day Scott, George Shaw, Linda Southwell, Cheryl Stewart, Mozelle Sukut, Mayre Von Hoffmann

—Laura Camp
CNPS Membership Application

☐ New member ☐ Renewal

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

[Organizations, please go to CNPS.ORG]

☐ Affiliate with the Orange County Chapter.

The chapter newsletter, CNPS Bulletin, and Fremontia are included. Membership is tax deductible, minus $12 for Fremontia. Make check payable to CNPS and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816

Join or renew online: go to www.cnps.org

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________
Phone/E-Mail ____________________________

Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Acct #: ________________________________
Exp date ________________________________

Signature ________________________________

Phone # ________________________________

Contact Information and Teams

Officers (2011 – 2012)

President  vacant
VicePresident Sarah Jayne  949 552-0691 sbjayne@cox.net
Dan Songster  949 768-0431 songster@cox.net
Secretary Nancy Heuler  949 559-1757 nheuler@cox.net
Treasurer Jennifer Mabley  949 855-2112 jenpod@gmail.com

Board members:

Chris Barnhill
Laura Camp  949 370-3303 laurac@treeoflifenursery.com
Cathie Field  micafield@cox.net
Celia Kutcher  celia552@cox.net
Ron Vanderhoff  ron@rogersgardens.com
Rachel Whitt

Membership Team:

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

Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC):

Team Lead: Dan Songster
Plant Sale: Dan Songster
Garden Tour: Sarah Jayne, Cathie & Mike Field, Dori Ito, Rob Moore

Plant Science Team (Research OC):

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

Conservation Team (Protect OC):

Team Lead: Celia Kutcher
Invasive Plants: Henry DiRocco

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: Jennifer Mabley
Website: Rich Schilk

Education Team:

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

July/August 2013

FIRST CLASS MAIL