Expanding our horizons...

There are lots of field trips on the calendar—a total of sixteen for the year! This is all owing to the diligence and enthusiasm of our field trip chairman, Ron Vanderhoff. In addition to his encyclopedic knowledge of our local native plants, Ron has visited most if not all likely spots to find them, at different times and seasons over many years. Choose one or do them all! From easy driving to more strenuous hiking, there’s a trip for everyone. Check our website at occnps.org for the latest information.

THE CONSERVATION REPORT:

NEW LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSED FOR SO CAL NATIONAL FORESTS

The US Forest Service (FS) has issued a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the proposed Southern California National Forests Land Management Plan Amendment. The Amendment is for the Land Use Management Plans (LMPs) of the four southern California National Forests: Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino—a.k.a. the Four Forests.

The DSEIS describes three alternative land usezonings for what are now designated as Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs). Two of the zonings would be more restrictive of public use, hence more protective of natural values.

Alternative 1 - No Action (existing status continued).
- No changes to current land use zones or to current management direction.
- No change in allowable vegetation management activities; allows vegetation removal for roads, trails and fuel breaks, and hazardous fuels modifications and fire suppression activities that would modify stand structure and species composition.

Alternative 2 - Proposed Action (the FS’ Preferred Alternative).
- More/bigger non-motorized and Recommended Wilderness zones.
- Fewer/smaller zones for motorized use, especially motorized recreational use.
- Fuels modifications and fire suppression activities and their effects would be the same as those in Alternative 1.
- No change in Existing Wilderness zones.
- No construction of new roads.

Alternative 3 – Recommended Wilderness Emphasis (developed in response to comments from groups wanting more wilderness zoning).
- More/bigger Recommended Wilderness zones.
- Significant decrease in human disturbance by prohibiting:
  - Public motorized access of any kind.
  - The use of mechanized tools/equipment for fuels reductions and fuel break construction.
- No change in Existing Wilderness zones.
- No construction of new roads.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE TRABUCO DISTRICT of the Cleveland NF, which manages our backyard Santa Ana Mountains. See the extensive background and maps at fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=35130:
- Under Appendix 1 Maps: Cleveland National Forest - North Maps.
- Under Scoping: CNF - Coldwater, Ladd & Trabuco IRAs Map.

The District’s three IRAs, Coldwater, Ladd, and Trabuco, are now zoned mostly as Back Country Non-Motorized, edged with some Back Country (motorized uses allowed) and Developed Area Interface (minimum 300-foot fuel treatment zones around structures and facilities).

Under Alternative 1, the three IRAs’ current zoning and management, hence public uses, would remain as is.

Under Alternative 2, the IRAs’ Back Country and Developed Area Interface zones would be rezoned to Back Country Non-Motorized. This zoning allows a low level of public use, and is managed to retain undeveloped character and natural appearance. Fuel breaks that contrast with the natural character may be present.

Under Alternative 3, the Trabuco area and most of the Coldwater area would be zoned as Recommended Wilderness. The Ladd IRA, because it is bisected by the existing Valley-Serrano 500 kV electric transmission line and its 160 foot maintenance right-of-way, is not suitable for Recommended Wilderness.

Analysis of what the new LMP means for our backyard Santa Anas will continue next time, in time for the May 16 comment deadline. Stay tuned!

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

Native Plant Garden Tour
Saturday, May 4, 2013
Contact Sarah Jayne to submit a garden or to volunteer.
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.

This issue’s question was "What edible native plant are you most likely to grow & why?"

Answers listed in order received.

Laura Camp—"OC natives Woolly Blue Curls (Trichostema lanatum) and San Miguel Savory (Clinopodium or Satureja chandleri) - both the flowers and leaves are great tea ingredients either fresh or dried: one floral, the other minty."

Orchid Black—"Rubus ursinus - Blackberry! Fruit for me and the birds. Ribes aureum, it’s tasty, too, if small. Oaks, for the more adventurous."

Mark Sugars—"Fragaria vesca, Woodland Strawberry. It’s hardy, dependable, and evergreen; it forms a dense ground cover and grows in all soils; and it produces scads of “berries” (yes, I know, accessory fruits)—small, but jam-packed with flavor."

Gene Ratcliffe—"I have the native grape hybrid ‘Roger’s Red’, which makes wonderful jelly or juice, and if I don’t harvest the grapes the birds love them as well."

Ron Vanderhoff—"I love berries, so I also love being near a "female" patch of our native California Blackberry (Rubus ursinus). Ummm, I could stop and snack for an hour. In a garden I’ll opt for another native berry, California Strawberry (Fragaria vesca). A fine groundcover for semi-shaded areas and quite tasty."

Trude Hurd—"Lemonadeberry. When struggling up a trail, I can’t resist stopping and tasting its red fruit. It jars me back to attention! It’s a nice-looking shrub that attracts wildlife."

Sarah Jayne—"I didn’t plant it for the purpose but soon discovered Cleveland Sage be the best sage for cooking, far superior to the regular cooking variety Salvia officinalis. ‘Winifred Gilman’ works just as well as straight Salvia clevelandii. I always dry a bunch of it when I trim. California Bay Laurel, Umbellularia californica, I planted with the full intention of using its leaves—sparingly—as seasoning."

Dan Songster—"Onion species (like Allium unifolium) to trim and use like chives in season. Also, Miner’s lettuce (Claytonia perfoliata) in salads. Oh, and Our Lord’s Candle (Hesperoyucca whipplei) blossoms thrown into a skillet with onions as a base for an omelet."

Thanks to all who responded! Next issue’s question: "Which native flowers do you most like to pick for an indoor bouquet?"

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

PLANT SALE AND MEMBER CELEBRATION AT TREE OF LIFE NURSERY
Saturday, March 16, 2013, 9am-4pm

Please join us for our spring event at Tree of Life Nursery. All are welcome, and there will be educational speakers throughout the day. Check our website at occnps.org for the schedule of speakers.

The day will be a special celebration for members. Members receive a 10% discount on plant purchases, and will receive a free plant or seed pack with any plant purchase. Renew your membership at the plant sale!

A special plant will be available on plant sale day only!
Tree of Life is releasing a special crop of Delphinium cardinale—Scarlet Larkspur—in D-40 pots for plant sale day only. This special beauty of the chaparral, with 4’ tall spikes of red flowers, is seldom available in the nursery trade, and has been growing for three years in the pots. The plants bloomed last year and are expected to bloom again! They will be sold for $15 each, and $5 from each purchase will be contributed to CNPS. Limit 3 per person.

February Heat Wave in the Foothills

Eighty degrees of separation from our mid-west friends with all their stuff to shovel out from under means we cannot speak our winter secret: how lupine swing their violet hips to the golden tune of fiddlenecks while a California thrasher courts us all from his perch atop the glistening laurel sumac.

Thea Gavin
Chapter Meetings
Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except in 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.

Please note: The May meeting will be held at the Fullerton Arboretum

Thursday, March 21: What you really need to know about maintaining your native garden!

Speaker: Jeff Bohn
When considering native gardening naturally we often focus on the pictures of pretty plants. Sometimes there are even talks about designing native gardens and on occasion there have even been presentations on proper planting tips. But it is rare to have a talk about maintaining these gardens once you have them installed!

Our speaker, Jeff Bohn of Tree of Life Nursery, is an absolute fountain of information regarding natives. He will impart some practical points about caring for a native garden, including pruning, weeding, and watering—possibly the three most important aspects of establishing and maintaining a native garden. He will also discuss some diseases and insects that native gardeners may encounter.

Jeff will also talk about some worthwhile natives that are often overlooked, and a couple plants that he feels you should just skip. Jeff is the expert—bring your questions!

Co-owner of Tree of Life Nursery, Jeff Bohn has spent four decades growing California native plants. He directs propagation and production of over 500 species and varieties of native plants at the nursery, and is in charge of all technical aspects of growing the nursery’s plants. Tree of Life Nursery (CaliforniaNativePlants.com) specializes in California native plants for the wholesale and retail trade.

Thursday, April 18, 2013: Adventures in Orange County—Stalking the Wild Lily and other Stories

Speakers: Bob Allen and Ron Vanderhoff
A good hike in the wild is one part planning, one part luck, and a heaping dose of the unexpected. When you set out to find some of Orange County’s floristic treasures, whether solo or on a CNPS field trip, it is always an enjoyable day in the field with inspiring distant views, fragrant hillside tapestries, and miniature gardens at your very feet. You may even stumble upon the odd rare plant, but you almost always find inspiration and enjoyment on these journeys.

Join us as Bob Allen and Ron Vanderhoff take us along on local explorations they each consider special. With these two native plant experts and enthusiasts it is sure to be a rare evening of adventure.

Bob Allen, a longtime and valued member of OC-CNPS, is a nature photographer, author, instructor, and consulting biologist. 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 preparing his eagerly awaited second book, A Field Guide to Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains.

Ron Vanderhoff is a lifelong southern California gardener and an inspiring and respected professional horticulturist who is especially fascinated with our native flora. He is also our Chapter’s much appreciated Field trip coordinator whose appetite for finding and identifying Orange County’s native plants is contagious. Ron 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.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We have many new members to welcome, and we are very thankful for a great year for membership in the Orange County chapter of CNPS. We currently boast the highest number of members we have ever had as a chapter. But rather than rest on our laurels, the chapter board and membership committee has two priorities: 1) satisfy our current members with relevant programs, improved information and compelling reasons to continue their membership, and 2) continue to increase membership at least 10% per year. After all, our county has a population of about three million people, and there is still a lot of work to do to increase the visibility of our organization, protect local native plants habitats and rare plants, support statewide protection efforts such as those in the deserts, promote the use of native plants in public and private gardens, and so much more. Thank you for joining us:


We hope to see you at a meeting or a field trip soon!
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
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Exp date ________________________________
Signature ____________________________________________
Phone # ________________________________

Contact Information and Teams
Officers (2011 – 2012)
President vacant
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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 949 949-9689 micafield@cox.net
Celia Kutcher celia552@cox.net
Rob Moore robmoores@dslextreme.com
Ron Vanderhoff ronv@rogersgardens.com

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, 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

March/April 2013

FIRST CLASS MAIL