CNPS Has a New Horticulture Program Director

Exciting news: for the first time in our history, the California Native Plant Society now has a fulltime Horticulture Program Director! For this new staff position, CNPS sought out an individual who could help chart the course of California’s oldest and most recognized native plant gardening program.

Susan Krzywicky comes from our San Diego chapter, where she helped to grow that chapter’s amazing horticulture program. She worked to build a successful garden tour, deliver training symposia, and otherwise engage thousands of San Diegans in growing native plants. Susan has also helped other groups such as Surfrider Foundation, San Diego County Water Authority, and the Port of San Diego in their work adopting and promoting California native plant horticulture. Susan’s communication skills, public presence, leadership, and organizational ability will enable her to make an outstanding contribution to the CNPS mission: to protect California’s native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations.

The Horticulture Program is ramping up, and we are looking forward to input from members throughout the state. As we set plans in motion, it is crucial to focus on what works at a local level and how we can base our programs on a sound scientific footing that can help gardeners throughout the state to succeed. Please welcome Susan and send any suggestions or ideas to skrzywicky@cnps.org.

THE CONSERVATION REPORT

SADDLE CREST: NO VICTORY YET!!

Saddle Crest Homes developer Rutter Santiago LP has filed to appeal the Superior Court ruling that shot down their development plan. The ruling: Respondent (Orange County) violated CEQA when it approved amendments to the Orange County General Plan and the Foothill-Trabuco Specific Plan, and certified the EIR for the Saddle Crest Homes Area Plan. Under the ruling, Respondent is commanded to “not reapprove the same or similar Project before preparing a revised EIR section that complies with CEQA and ensuring that the Project complies with applicable State Planning and Zoning Law.” Despite this ruling, and despite that the County Board of Supervisors has voted to NOT appeal the ruling, Rutter (co-defendant with the County in the original suit) has filed the appeal. See the Nov-Dec 2012, Jan-Feb 2013, and Sept-Oct 2013 Newsletters, and references therein, for background on OCCNPS/CNPS involvement in this lawsuit and its preceding actions.

Saddleback Canyons Conservancy and Rural Canyons Conservation Fund are again spearheading the environmental coalition (which also includes Audubon California, CNPS, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks) on this side of the battle. The appeal is expected to be heard next spring. The BIG need now is, once again, fundraising to cover litigation costs.

ACTION NOW: Donate to help defend the Superior Court’s ruling. Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks is the campaign’s fiscal sponsor; go to fhbp.org/programs/saddleback-canyons.html to donate. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

SAFE TRAILS COALITION

Audubon California, Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks, Laguna Canyon Foundation, Sea and Sage Audubon Society, and Sierra Club have founded the Safe Trails Coalition. Its goal is to preserve access to OC’s diverse parklands through trail systems that allow people to enjoy these lands while protecting the resources in them. The Coalition:

- Supports all users of the existing network of authorized trails, who are willing to ensure native plants and wildlife and other natural resources are protected, and agree that all trail users and park visitors are entitled to a safe and enjoyable experience in the wilderness.
- Seeks to complement the efforts of area land managers to address the far-reaching problems associated with trail misuse and abuse.
- Welcomes individuals, user groups, non-profit and civic organizations, governmental agencies, and land managers, asking that they become supporting members of the Coalition so all can better work collectively to achieve our common goals.

On September 26 the Safe Trails Coalition hosted a workshop focused on understanding three perspectives: public safety, user groups and land managers; see fhbp.org/projects/STC-workshop-092613.html.

CHINO/PUENTE HILLS

Hills For Everyone (HillsForEveryone.org) will present a retrospective, “Lest we Forget,” to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the devastating Freeway Complex Fire. The 30,305-acre fire swept across 90% of Chino Hills State Park and damaged adjacent communities. Exhibits on the fire, maps and photos, and fire-safe tips will be at the Chino Hills State Park Discovery Center, 4500 Carbon Canyon Rd., November 16-17 and 24-25, 9-12.

—Celia Kutch, Conservation Chair
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.
Our question for this newsletter is, “What is your favorite native plant for use on slopes and hillsides?”

Ron Vanderhoff: “On slopes, especially large or steep ones, diversity is always better than a single monoculture. Start with Salvias, like ‘Mrs. Beard’ and ‘Bee’s Bliss’. Then add some plants like Eriogonum ‘Dana Point’, Baccharis ‘Pigeon Point’, Artemesia ‘Canyon Grey’ and Ceanothus ‘Yankee Point.’”

Mike Evans: “Lemonade berry and/or sugar bush, depending on location. Good to also combine them with their natural companions.”

Greg Rubin: “My all-time favorite slope plant is Baccharis ‘Pigeon Point’. It is incredibly adaptable, evergreen, fire-resistant, and a fantastic stabilizer. However, I never plant it as a monoculture, instead pairing it with other groundcovers such as Ceanothus ‘Joyce Coulter’ and Arctostaphylos ‘John Dourey’. Arctostaphylos hookeri ssp. franciscana is also an amazing plant which is very adaptable under a wide range of conditions, surprising when one considers its rarity.”

Dori Ito: “My favorite planting for a slope as well as groundcover is the Wishbone Plant, aka Four O’clock, Mirabilis laevis, because of its cheerful and charming pink floral display and nicely spreading and tumbling ways. In drought conditions it can go dry and brownish, but I’ve found that with watering it will rebound nicely and flower most of the year.”

Bart O’Brien: “Easy answer to this question: sages, sage brushes, and buckwheats! All are excellent subjects and bring both the character and the aroma of California.”

Charles Wright: “Since our mountain home is on a hillside I would have to say my favorite native plants for slopes would be the native plants (like scrub oak, which here is Quercus john-tuckerii and yucca, Hesperoyucca whipplei, and Jeffrey Pine). So I guess the takeaway is plant what would grow there before the place was developed.”

Dan Songster: “Buckweats. Especially our vigorous and floriferous California Buckwheat, Eriogonum fasciculatum. It often grows on the toughest slopes in the wild and spreads quickly, takes heat, takes all soils, and after a couple years needs no water other than whatever rainfall we receive. Oh, and it is one of our greatest pollinator plants for the little butterflies such as the Acon Blue and Behr’s Metalmark.”

Our question for the next newsletter is: “How do you encourage bees in your garden?” Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Please remember to keep replies brief so we can include most of the responses!

Field Trip
Sunday, Nov 17—Silverado Canyon Fall Color Trip
With a combination of car and foot, we will explore three or four miles beyond the USFS gate at the end of Silverado Canyon Road, but stop before the road starts climbing out of the canyon. We will caravan to two or three stops along the way, enjoying (hopefully) the fall colors of bigleaf maple, sycamore, poison oak (yup!) and other plants.
Meet 8 am at the large Forest Service gate at the far end of Silverado Canyon Road—5.75 miles off Santiago Canyon Road.
This trip does require a USFS Adventure Pass!

MEMBERSHIP CORNER
On a beautiful fall day, speakers throughout the day provided inspiration and information and many plants went home with happy gardeners. Welcome to those who became new members of CNPS at our Member Appreciation Day at Tree of Life Nursery on October 26 and thanks to all who renewed.
Now let us all join in a big rain dance!

Cal-IPC Symposium at Lake Arrowhead
The 22nd Annual Symposium of the California Invasive Plant Council on October 3-5, 2013, at Lake Arrowhead Resort was the first to be held in Riverside or San Bernardino Counties since 1998. I thank the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter of CNPS for contributing to my registration expense and also directly to the conference. Among the sessions that I attended:

1. Biocontrol of invasive wildland weeds:
   • Research on Arundo or giant reed (Arundo donax) is funded by the U.S. Border Patrol, in order to reduce massive infestations along the Rio Grande River between Mexico and Texas. Recently two insects to control it have been released in northern California.
   • Biocontrol research on Ailanthus (Chinese Tree of Heaven) may be funded by Virginia and neighboring states, where Ailanthus is replacing native woodlands.
   • Research funding for control of Sahara mustard seems unlikely, because the eventual loss of native wildflowers is not considered a major economic impact. Localized preservation of annual desert wildflowers will continue to depend on hand-weeding and selective herbicide spraying.
   • Several biocontrol agents for yellow star thistle (YST) have been introduced to California; most have failed, but one beetle has been moderately successful at reducing YST populations. This is good news because YST is expanding in southern California.

2. Genetic diversity of native plantings for habitat restoration: Conventionally, biologists require locally sourced seeds and native plants for this purpose. New evidence suggests that the hybridization that may ensue from use of non-local natives may result in greater genetic vigor to cope with changing conditions. I also attended a Saturday field trip to habitat restoration sites in the Santa Ana River watershed, projects for Arundo removal and restoration and for control of other invasives, including Ailanthus, Mexican fan palm, perennial pepperweed and YST.

—Bill Neill, OCCNPS Invasive Plants Co-Chair
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.

Thursday, November 21: The Hows and Whys of Name Changes

Speaker: Gary Wallace
Many of us thought scientific names were written in stone when we first became acquainted with native plants. But now our local Satureja has become Clinopodium; good old Deerweed has gone from Lotus scoparius to Acmispon glaber; and Stipa, which went to Nassella, has returned to Stipa. Chaos!

But these alterations are nothing new. Changes in plant names and groupings have gone on from Abrams to Davidson to Jepson to Munz to Munz, to Jepson to Jepson, etc. Since plant names and groupings change in accordance with new information that reflects their relationships, changes are sure to continue. Our speaker will help us understand why names change and how changes are made, and how these changes are part of a necessary and ultimately enriching scientific process.

Dr. Gary Wallace is a Botanist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a Research Associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. And in 2008 was recognized by the Linnean Society of London for his lifelong dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence in Botany and Taxonomical Classification by admitting him as a Fellow of the Society, thus placing him among the global leaders of the natural sciences. He is past president of the Southern California Botanists and he is a member of the San Gabriel Mountains CNPS chapter.

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. See our website for a map & other info.

Thursday, December 19: It’s Your Turn!
Everyone is invited to share some favorite photos of native plants, wildlife, habitats, or gardens—local, California, or anywhere in the world. Keep it to five 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!)

The techie stuff: 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 .mpg. Once again, Windows users, see above. 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, but if you have a special treat that you would like to share, feel free to bring it along.

Our book sales table will be well stocked for that last minute holiday shopping. Please join us for a relaxed and interesting evening.

2014 Garden Tour—May 3
Home gardens featuring California native plants are an important inspiration and source of ideas for those who are contemplating a switch to natives, as well as those of us who already devoted to gardening with natives. From brand new to well established, large and small, we seek to offer a wide variety of gardens. Front yard lawn conversions are especially of interest these days.

Have you considered entering your garden but thought it might not be “ready” or “good enough”? We would be happy to pay a visit to help you decide—just let us know and we’ll set up a time. We also need docents for each garden, which is a good way to get a close look at someone else’s efforts.

You may contact the Garden Tour Committee through the newsletter editor, Sarah Jayne, at sbjayne@cox.net or talk to us at a meeting. “Us” is Sarah, Cathie Field, Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty, and Ram Nayeri. We welcome your help!

08-22-13
any flower this year
must be an oasis
to passing insect
few bees, flies, wasps
butterflies & moths
myriads of unknown beetles & bugs

but seek out that lonely bloom
pause & watch &
the chances are good
that you’ll spy
a thirsty & hungry
critter or two
seek see savor
along the trail

Woodland Skipper on aster
Behr’s Metalmark on buckwheat
trail to Barbara’s Lake
James Dilley Preserve
Laguna Canyon Wilderness Park
CA
chuck wright
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
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Plant Sale: Dan Songster
Garden Tour: Sarah Jayne, Cathie & Mike
Field: Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty, Rama
Nayeri

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

Conservation Team [Protect OC):
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Invasive Plants: Henry DiRocco

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