Like many of the plants that grow in the Orange County wild lands, OCCNPS goes into summer dormancy—we drop our leaves, turn brown, and hunker down to wait for autumn rains. Well, not quite. On Sunday, July 27, the board will hold its annual planning meeting at Starr Ranch. Interested members are welcome to attend; visit the website for more information. And there’s yet another field trip in July. Finally, wherever your travels take you this summer, seek out the native plants! Our next chapter meeting will be Thursday, September 18, at the Duck Club.

**Lucas Canyon, San Mateo Canyon Wilderness: a Botanical Survey**

Lucas Canyon is a primarily East-West oriented canyon with rugged, moderate to steep canyon sides. It has a moderate to large drainage, relative to other canyons in the Southern Santa Ana Mountains. Boulder outcrops are common in the lower and upper portions of the canyon and occasional in the central portion. The canyon bottom is mostly boulder strewn with sporadic areas of sand and several areas of worn bedrock. Water flows seasonally in the creek and standing pools persists during most summers in occasional tenajas. Because of the relative isolation of the canyon and the difficulty of access, it is not often visited or studied botanically, although many areas of the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness share this distinction.

The slopes of the canyon are predominantly dense and well-developed Southern mixed chaparral, especially on the Southern (North facing) slope of the canyon. The Northern (South facing) slope of the canyon is a blend of Southern mixed chaparral, chamise chaparral and coastal sage scrub. The canyon bottom comprises moderately- to well-developed wooded riparian vegetation. Canopies are created by mesic trees. Deeper soils scattered about the canyon bottom support small forests of oak.

The canyon has historically supported various small mining operations, from the mid 1800s through the early 1900s, with reports of placer gold being the most notable, but also including tin and copper. A few homesteads were established in the central portion of the canyon, but the last of these were destroyed in a 1950s forest fire. Mining artifacts and a few scattered remnants of prior habitation are still present in the canyon. Some exotic plants from these homesteads persist today.

On April 27, 2014, starting at 7:10 AM under a cool, wet, overcast, Ron Vanderhoff, Kevin Davey, Kris Larson, Sherri Sisson and Susan Trindle botanically surveyed the central portion of Lucas Canyon, San Mateo Canyon Wilderness, Cleveland National Forest. Susan Trindle only visited the western portion of the canyon, and then returned home. Portions of the survey were in both Orange and Riverside Counties. The roundtrip was 10.1 miles on foot with an 1834-foot altitude gain and loss, and ended at 5:50 PM. In addition, Ron Vanderhoff surveyed the eastern third of the canyon three days prior, on April 24, 2014 and had also visited portions of the canyon on January 31, 2011, March 21, 2013 and November 10, 2013.

Access to the canyon was via the private Rancho Carrillo Road (with permission), then via an unnamed trail that descends into the western portion of Aliso Canyon and then into Lucas Canyon. Once in the canyon much of the trip was on the restored Lucas Canyon Trail, although several forays were taken into the streambed and other off-trail areas.

The group attempted to record all taxa, whether native, introduced or invasive, although several were likely missed. CRPR plants and others plants of significance were recorded with photographs, coordinates or a voucher sample, often with all of these. Vouchers will be deposited with The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden herbarium. As reference, *Vascular Plants of The San Mateo Canyon Wilderness Area, Cleveland National Forest, California* (Boyd et al, Aliso 14(2), pp. 109-139) was used. 206 taxa, representing 206 species were recorded. 185 (81%) are considered native and naturally occurring and 40 (19%) are considered planted, escaped or not native at this site. Three previously unreported taxa were added to the flora of the canyon: *Clinopodium chandleri*, *Oxalis pes-caprae*, and *Pinus sp.* Please go to [occnps.org](http://occnps.org) for the complete plant list and photos from this survey. Future survey locations and details will be posted on the Explore tab as they are scheduled.

—Ron Vanderhoff

**ADVANCE NOTICE!**

The Desert Institute Joshua Tree National Park presents:

**Lichens of Joshua Tree National Park**

Over 140 species of lichens occur in Joshua Tree National Park. However, these ubiquitous organisms are commonly overlooked. This introductory class will give you a basic understanding of lichen biology and ecology in desert habitats.

**Kerry Knudsen**, Curator of Lichens at the Herbarium of the University of California, Riverside, and a lichen taxonomist, has spent over 100 days inventorying the lichens of Joshua Tree NP. Morning lectures will introduce lichens. The afternoon will be spent in the field looking at them, hand lens in hand!

**Date/Time**: Saturday, October 25, 2014, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Meet at**: Oasis Visitor Center, 74485 National Park Dr., Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

**Credit Fee**: $60 for JTNPA/PINE members, $70 nonmembers

**Tel.** 760 367-5535 / Fax 760 367-5583

**Email**: desertinstitute@joshuatree.org
*Manzanita Blues*

‘Howard McMinn’ died yesterday. I killed him.
He shivered, shrugged his leaves, and croaked,
not much more than a sprout,
not a 4-to-b-foot garden focal point—
his handsome potential, according to the label.
How did it happen? Who knows? Maybe it was circumstances beyond my control:
The economy. His own fault for not
taking better care. I did everything
I could. That’s a lie. I could have read
up on manzanita just a little
before I summer-stuck him in the ground—
compacted foundation soil, south-facing
narrow strip that magnified the inland
August sun’s relentless beaming.
(What was I thinking?)

It was an empty spot, and little Howard
had looked adorable in black one-gallon plastic.
I’m sorry, Howard. I’ll do better next time:
maybe haul in some U.G. and make a crumbly
pillow-mound where drainage would delight
your delicate roots, above the cloying clay . . .
And thus well-drained, my handsome Howard II,
would you reward me with a pale-pink flower
cloud sure to attract butterflies, some peely
purplish bark on a sculptured trunk,
graceful twisting arms aglow
with lime-green leaves and tiny apple fruits?
Howard II, I hear you calling. Wait
til autumn; I will meet you at the nursery.

Thea Gavin

 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 the order received.

Our question for this Newsletter is “What native plant has been successful in your garden, even though you planted it in the summer months?”

Thea Gavin *

Rama Nayeri: “I have found that Autumn Sage, California Woodland Strawberry, and Yerba Buena tend to work really well in my clients’ gardens.”

Bob Allen: “Buckwheats!”

Chuck Wright: “I only plant in late fall and winter and early spring, except for cactus, like opuntia when it drops its pads. I will plant the pads with the edge facing south and a rock supporting each side and that seems to work.”

Mark Sugars: “In my experience, as long as you plant it in the shade and give it enough water to get it established, Fragaria vesca (Woodland Strawberry) does not care when you install it.”

Orchid Black: “I regularly do summer plantings, and I have planted Eriogonums, Ceanothus (with some shade help), Arctostaphylos, Salvias, Minulus, and many others in summer with success. However, Epilobium californicum (formerly Zauschneria) has failed in more than one summer planting, so I don’t include it in my palette for summer planting, and if in clay soils I don’t use Penstemon eatonii in summer either.”

Dan Songster: “Over the years at Golden West College Native Garden I have had the chance to test out a lot of different natives, including planting them in different seasons. Many of the plants from the Channel Islands, our oak woodland, and grasslands if given extra water did well with summer planting. But I would say for me the standout group that always perform the best are coastal sage scrub plants. It seems every one of them had no problem making it through the summer heat as long as they were given the needed water. Sage, buckwheat, sagebrush, encelia, and most of that community do just great—if you keep an eye on them through fall.”

Our question for the next newsletter is: “With fall approaching, what changes are you planning for your native garden this coming year?”

Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. [When contemplating this question, think about preparing your garden for the 2015 garden tour! The Ed.]
CONSERVATION NEWS

CHINO-PUENTE HILLS: In early June, the Brea City Council voted 4-1 to approve the long-contentious 162-unit Madrona (aka Canyon Crest) project. Background and details: hillsforeveryone.org/projects/canyon-crest.html. Hills For Everyone, which has campaigned for decades to preserve open space in the Chino-Puente Hills, is now fundraising to fight this decision in court.

ACTION NOW!: Go to crowdfunding.com/campaigns/hillside-protection-fund to donate directly to the litigation fund. Also HFR is hosting a Wine and Cheese Event with a silent auction on Saturday, July 19th, to fundraise. Tickets are on sale now: $30 per person or $50 for two, both $10 more at the door. Buy tickets in advance at HillsForEveryone.org: hillsforeveryone.org/donate/fundraiser.html.

SADDLE CREST: The lawsuit, in which CNPS/OCCNPS is a co-defendant with four other enviro groups, continues to wind its way through the legal process of briefs, motions to strike, opposition to motions. It is expected that the Court of Appeals will deal with all these when it considers the merits of our case—which maybe will be in another 2-3 months. In the meantime, fundraising to cover our side’s legal costs continues.

ACTION NOW!: Go to fhbp.org/programs/saddleback-canycans.html to donate—be sure to indicate the Saddle Crest litigation fund. A generous supporter will match donations dollar-for-dollar, up to $911.00.

BANNING RANCH: Coastal Commissioners, staff and public toured Banning Ranch on June 11. This was a chance for Banning Ranch Conservancy supporters to actually get on Banning Ranch and see what the Conservancy has been working so hard, so long, to save. An audio recording of the entire tour is to be posted on the Coastal Commission website, coastal.ca.gov, as is the pre-tour briefing. Version 9 (or higher) Windows Media Player is required.

BOLSA CHICA: GOOD NEWS!! The Ridge development proposed to put 22 houses on an archaeological site that was a native village and sacred site for 9000 years. BUT—at the June 12 Coastal Commission hearing, the City of Huntington Beach withdrew its application for the Ridge! This means that landowner Signal Landmark must start again at the city level if they still wish to pursue development. The Bolsa Chica Land Trust spearheaded the long, strong campaign for preservation of this precious open space—to keep the Sacred Cogged Stone site a place for us all, instead of yet another bunch of houses. The Land Trust continues the campaign—there is much more to be done before the site is truly preserved. For info and to help: bolsachicalandtrust.org.

RIO SANTIAGO: GOOD NEWS!! On June 10 the Orange City Council voted to uphold its Planning Commission’s denial of the 395-unit Rio Santiago project. Impacts from development could not be properly mitigated; the site is in a flood plain and next to a landfill that is prone to natural hazards like dam inundation, methane gas, and liquefaction. The Orange Park Association was the leader in this effort.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

Visit Golden West College Native Garden for Ideas!
Maintained entirely by a steadfast band of volunteers under the direction of Dan Songster, the Native Garden at Golden West College in Huntington Beach is a place to go to see native plants in action. Grouped by habitat, many of the plants are native to different areas of the state, proving their usefulness in Orange County gardens. Large shrubs and trees are the bones of this garden; soft shrubs and perennials flesh them out. Some of the shrubs are managed to demonstrate their use in a formal garden setting. The garden is designed to create sight-lines, contrasts of texture, and interesting vistas. Be inspired!
Visiting is especially easy on weekdays when $3 parking is available in the Goldenwest Street lot, and the team is in the garden Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Go to the web goldenwestcollege.edu/garden/ for details and directions.

Members’ Corner
It’s been a long time since new members were acknowledged in the newsletter. We apologize and offer a much-belated WELCOME!

Jul – Dec 2013
Shayna Foreman
Dan Jenkins
Susan Munson
Joanne Schwartz
Sherry Sisson
Verna Ayer
Nina McDonald
James Blifin
Anne Handberry
Norman Johnson
Shawn Pendley Fichtner
Christina Van Oosten
Yvonne Wilson
Elizabeth Haffner
Chuck George
Michael Boal
Craig De Pfyffer
Marlon Okano
Priscilla Ross
Jean Schlesinger
Michele Africano
Diane Dorman
Daniel Hedlay
Paula Hollie
Chanel Lewis
Shelley Lubinsky
Luke Mawhinney
Marsha Medina
Chery Moe
Ed Robb
Mary Sadler
Jordan Sorensen
Hector Villa
Francis Yang
Justin Meyer
Cerise Outhier
Maria Garbat
Jennifer Mancera
Diane Ludlow
Jan – Jun 2014
Kathy Sommer
Mary Bless
Michele Rivers
Ellen Stewart
Jana Ruzicka
Scot Parker
Linda Davalos
Cathy Domenichini
Gail Holmes
Kathy Ku
John McGlinn
Jill Schindler
Chris Tarman-Major
Mike Vijak
Donald Barkemeyer
Nathan Phail
Edward Rodriguez
Ruth McGinnis
Joan Miller
Jessica Calvillo
James Eagan
Jan Balazs
Brandon Cornejo
Colleen Nell
Gina Marzolo
Elizabeth Jones
Mark Shay
Susan Finn
Linda Lee Parsonson

HELP WANTED NEEDED
We’ve lost our publicity chair—can you help?
No meetings to attend! Work out of your home!

What: Send notices of monthly meetings and other events to the media in a timely manner.

Time commitment: 3 - 10 hours per month.

Requirements: A home computer, Facebook presence helpful

Questions: Contact Sarah Jayne at sbjayne@cox.net
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]

☐ Affilate 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 click on Join CNPS

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Phone # ________________________________

Contact Information and Teams

Officers:
President Vacant 949 552-0691 sbjayne@cox.net
Vice-President Sarah Jayne 949 768-0431 songster@cox.net
Secretary Dan Songster 949 855-2112 jenpod@gmail.com
Treasurer Jennifer Mabley 949 370-3303 laurac@treeoflifenursery.com

Board Members:
Laura Camp 949 370-3303 micafield@cox.net
cathiefield3@gmail.com
Thea Gavin gavinfam@aol.com
Dori Ito doriinthegarden@gmail.com
celiasongster@gmail.com
Celia Kutchc 949 496-9689 celia552@cox.net
Ron Vanderhoff ronv@rogersgardens.com
Rachel Whitt 714 815-6782 rachellewhitt@aol.com

Membership Team:
Team Leaders: Dori Ito & Jennifer Beatty
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: Mabel Alazard, Jennifer Beatty, Cathie Field, Dori Ito, Sarah Jayne, Rama Nayeri,

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 Kutchc
Invasive Plants: Henry DiRocco
Explore Team (Explore OC):
Team Lead: Ron Vanderhoff
Field Trips: Ron Vanderhoff
Field Trip Logistics: Rich Schilk

Communications Team:
Team Lead: open
Publicity: open
Newsletter: Sarah Jayne
eNews: Laura Camp & Rachel Whitt
Publications: Jennifer Mabley
Website: Rich Schilk

Education Team:
Team Lead: Sarah Jayne
Educational Grants: Jutta Burger

CNPS ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER
occnps.org

California Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 54891
Irvine CA 92619-4891

July/August 2014

FIRST CLASS MAIL