Happy New Year—it’s the 2015 Field Trip Schedule!

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. Answers listed in order received. Our question for this newsletter is:
“What is the best piece of garden design advice you have ever heard or read?”

Rami Nayeri:- “The best advice I received (and give) is that gardening is like a science lab. It takes experimentation to get the right formula that works for you.”

Laura Camp:- “Paraphrasing Mike Evans—gardening is about bringing nature in miniature closer to us.”

Nancy Harris:- “Best garden advice for me over the years is to layer plants by size, place like plants together (sun or shade, dry or wet, etc.) and mulch, mulch and more mulch!”

Peigi Duvall:- “Thomas D. Church’s advice is wonderful: ‘When your garden is finished, I hope it will be more beautiful than you anticipated, require less care than you had expected, and have cost only a little more than you had planned.’”

Orchid Black:- “Right plant, right place! This means don’t plant a plant larger than the space even if you think you will prune it, or a sunny plant in a shady area just because you love the idea of having that plant.”

Bob Allen:- “In a talk to OCCNPS given by Greg Rubin, he mentioned that good design includes the use of a multiple individuals of most plants. Using just one individual makes it look like a specimen in a botanical garden or hobbyist garden. Form a group of those individuals to make it look like you did it on purpose. Short story: buy more than one of each plant!”

Susan Krzywicki:- “I think one of the early eye-openers for me was to pay attention to what was or could have been in a spot successfully, before repeatedly planting a species that ‘should’ go there. Meaning: take your cues from what works. If Mimulus flourishes in that spot, encourage it. I used to get frustrated trying to make a particular plant work in a specific spot—and now I’m much happier letting go of my own preconceived notions of what goes where.”

Charles Wright:- “From experience its best to buy 3 of the same plant and plant in 3 different places. One might thrive. And be sure and label each plant, date, where from, price, etc. That way you will know what didn’t make it and for what lives you will know what it is and the details associated with it.”

Celia Kutzer:- “Analyze your site and how you will use it. Then choose plants that will fit—so that you don’t create built-in maintenance problems.”

Barbara Eisenstein- “One-of-a-kind is not a good design strategy.”

Alan Lindsay:- “Greg Rubin’s talk at one of our OC CNPS meetings changed how I think about the use of natives in a residential setting.”
Now, I am not trying to emulate a plant’s natural setting; a formal garden with native California plants is permissible. My property doesn’t have to look like a National Forest."

Dan Songster:- “There are so many good pieces of advice I have been given throughout the years, much of which I ignored in my younger days and had to learn the hard way! (Does everyone do that?) Advice like giving the plants enough room to grow, grouping plants according to water needs, placing the right size, shape, and colored plant in the right spot, designing with birds, bugs, and butterflies in mind, using contrasting foliage colors, keeping water on site, etc. Perhaps the best advice I have received is to visit (with camera and notepad) as many good gardens and talk to as many designers whose work you respect as possible. Take those ideas and then have fun designing and arranging the plants and hardscape in a way that you feel will really please you as everything grows into place.”

Our Question for the Next Newsletter is: “How do you control snails and slugs in your garden (or do you find the need)?”

Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Please remember to keep replies brief so we can include most of the responses!

CONSERVATION

STINKWORT PULL A SUCCESS!

On Nov. 30, 20 doughty weed-fighters tackled the infestation of stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) in the southerly end of O’Neill Regional Park. This was the first known site in OC for stinkwort; its discovery there was reported in our previous newsletter. The removed stinkwort filled 10 large trash bags, which were taken to the landfill.

The Stinkwort Pull was the inaugural event of a collaboration between OCCNPS, the Irvine Ranch Conservancy (IRC), and OC Parks to act quickly to control newly emerging invasives in OC’s reserve lands. Such infestations, usually small, are likely otherwise to “fall between the cracks” in the management of OC’s public lands.

In the stinkwort’s case, the plants had begun to disperse seed so we felt some urgency about removing the infestation before it could expand any further.

The Pull was organized by Jutta Burger, IRC Managing Director for Science and Stewardship. She is also an OCCNPS Board member and head of our newly reorganized Invasives Committee. Henry DiRocco, OC Parks volunteer and Invasives Committee member, was the on-site leader. The weed-fighting group included OCCNPS members and IRC and OC Parks volunteers and staff.

OCCNPS will continue to monitor the area. It is likely that ongoing removal efforts and several years of monitoring will be needed to ensure complete eradication.

ACTION NOW: Keep your eyes peeled for stinkwort, and any other uncommon non-native plants, as you walk OC’s trails. If you see such a plant, take notes and pictures about its location and email them to Jutta Burger, Ron Vanderhoff, or Celia Kutcher. See address page of this newsletter.

COMING SOON: Our website will soon host an expanded “Have You Seen This Plant?” page, with pictures and info to help you ID and report OC’s known invasives. Watch for it!

SADDLE CREST: On Dec. 16th, an Appeals Court panel of three justices heard oral arguments from both sides of the Saddle Crest appeal, and then took the matter under submission. Their opinion will be issued within 90 days from Dec. 16. OCCNPS is one of five defendants in the appeal. See past newsletters for details on OCCNPS’ part in this long and involved issue.

ACTION NOW: Donations to the Saddle Crest legal fund are still needed; make them online at fhbp.org/programs/saddleback-canyons.html.

MADRONA: Hills for Everyone has entered litigation against the City of Brea’s approval of the Madrona development, proposed for land next to—and which should be part of—Chino Hills State Park. OCCNPS is a co-litigant in this action. For more info, and to donate to this litigation fund, see HillsForEveryone.org.

BANNING RANCH: The Banning Ranch enforcement action, which had been scheduled for the January Coastal Commission meeting, was postponed to a future meeting. The action is on the proposed Commission administrative order directing Banning Ranch landowners to, among other things, cease and desist from engaging in alleged unpermitted development, including mowing, and to restore certain areas to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area status. See bannings.ranchconservancy.org, for details on what’s at stake.

The OCCNPS Board of Directors welcomes two new members to the board: Brad Jenkins as Treasurer and David Pryor as Member At Large. We greatly appreciate the contribution of their time and talents as we strive to strive to increase the recognition of CNPS as a vital force in the protection of Orange County's remaining wildlands.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation 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.

January 15, 2015
Speaker: Bill Neill—Geology of Orange County and vicinity

The geological history of coastal California is more complex and much younger than most of North America. This results from Southern California’s location at the continent’s edge, which has been a tectonic plate margin for about 220 million years. The most remarkable event was about 18 million years ago, when sideways movement starting on the proto-San Andreas Fault rotated the western Transverse Ranges, including the Santa Monica Mountains, about 120 degrees clockwise, away from the present coasts of Orange and San Diego Counties, thus forming the deep Los Angeles sedimentary basin.

For the January 15 program at the Duck Club in Irvine, Bill Neill will describe and illustrate the geology of Orange County, in relation to other regions of Southern California. This presentation will provide an introduction to the various sedimentary and volcanic rock units, which can influence native plant communities, and will make the structures and rock types more understandable to the casual observer.

Bill studied geology at UCLA and Stanford University, then was employed for 20 years as a petroleum engineer. For the past 15 years, he has worked as a professional herbicide applicator controlling invasive wildland weeds in natural areas.

February 19, 2015
Speaker: Dr. Jere H. Lipps—From Dinosaurs to People: The History of Animals and Plants in Orange County

Would you like to know what lived here before we arrived? From marine life to mastodons to man, the landscape that is now Orange County has been a geologically active place for over 180 million years, and the sediments that have been laid down over the eons record the life that have made this area home. This is an unparalleled record of western North America, and the fossils found here hold secrets that have worldwide significance.

Join us as we look back in time with Dr. Jere Lipps, Director of the John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center based here in Orange County. The Cooper Center’s archaeological holdings include materials from all areas and environmental zones throughout the County and represent at least three different Native American cultures. Dr. Lipps will take us “beneath” the parking lots, malls, roadways, freeways, toll-roads, and vast housing tracts of Orange County and give us an overview of life here before we arrived.

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.

The Irvine Ranch Water District neither supports nor endorses the cause or activities of organizations that use the District’s facilities, which are made available as a public service.

Dr. Jere H. Lipps studies a broad range of paleontological, geologic, archaeologic, and marine biologic problems. He is particularly interested in the effects of climate change and sea level rise on past and present Orange County and the processes of evolution and extinction of marine animals ranging from single-celled foraminifera through reefs to marine mammals. He employs a combination of field, lab and molecular biology techniques to examine many aspects of these problems, and has worked in over 100 countries and all continents.

Dr. Lipps completed his PhD in Geology at UCLA and taught on the faculties at UC Davis (Geology) and UC Berkeley (Integrative Biology). After 42 years, he retired from Berkeley where he had served as Chair of IB, Director of the Museum of Paleontology and The Berkeley Natural History Museums. In 2012, he was invited to become Director of the new John D. Cooper Archaeological and Paleontological Center, a partnership between Orange County and Cal State Fullerton to manage and utilize the County’s collection of artifacts and fossils for the benefit of the people of the county.

For Dr. Lipps, doing geology and paleontology doesn’t feel like a job—he truly loves his work. In addition to satisfying his own intellectual curiosity, however, he sees other reasons why his work is worthwhile. The public has always been curious about the origin and history of animal life, and Dr. Lipps’s research on marine organisms contributes to the understanding of how animals evolved and the processes of extinction. As he puts it, paleontologists capture the spotlight because of the public’s fascination with dinosaurs and the Earth’s ancient history. Economic and social reasons add to the importance of Dr. Lipps’s work. If environmental groups (such as CNPS) understand the historical underpinnings of the ecosystems they are battling to preserve or restore, they can better direct costly conservation efforts. Geology and paleontology also contribute enormously to climate change studies through the documentation of past changes and the similarities of those with modern situations.

Orange County CNPS has its first CNPS Fellow!
At the December meeting of the state CNPS Board of Directors meeting, Sarah Jayne was voted into the distinguished company of CNPS Fellows, the highest honor bestowed on active members by our state organization.
**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 click on Join CNPS.

**Contact Information and Teams**

**Officers:**

- **President**: Sarah Jayne
  - 949 552-0691
  - sbjayne@cox.net
- **Vice-President**: Dan Songster
  - 949 768-0431
  - songster@cox.net
- **Secretary**: Jutta Burger
  - jburger04@gmail.com
- **Treasurer**: Brad Jenkins
  - bradcjenkins@yahoo.com

**Board Members:**

- **Chapter Council Rep**: Laura Camp
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- **Rachel Whitt**: 714 815-6782
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**Membership Team:**

- **Team Lead**: Dori Ito & Jennifer Beatty
- **Outreach Coordinator**: Jennifer Mabley
- **Hospitality**: Sarah Jayne
- **Greeters**: 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, 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 Kucher
- **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**: Bob Hutter
- **Newsletter**: Sarah Jayne
- **eNews**: Laura Camp & Rachel Whitt
- **Publications**: Jennifer Mabley
- **Website**: Rich Schilk

**Education Team**:

- **Team Lead**: Sarah Jayne
- **Educational Grants**: Jutta Burger
- **School Gardens**: Sarah Jayne

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**January/February 2015**

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**