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 listed in order received.

Our question for this Newsletter is:

“How do you control snails and slugs in your garden (and other chewing, slurping critters) or do you find the need?”

Ed Kimball—“I use decomposed granite for mulch and snails seem to avoid it.”

Nancy Harris—“Don’t need to control as I think an opossum lives under our front deck and cleans up every night. Love the critters. Ducks will also eat snails, but they can be very messy if you get what I’m saying!”

Ron Vanderhoff—“I haven’t seen a snail or slug in years. I’m a big believer that where these fellows are a problem the garden is almost always being overwatered. I have a theory that water conservation and snail/slug counts have an inverse relationship.”

Laura Camp—“No snails or slugs in my garden since I planted natives and stopped watering!”

Deanna Epley—“In the early evening I dampened the soil and sprinkled a very sparse line of snail bait as a perimeter around plants I valued. I tried to sprinkle it where other critters were unlikely to blunder into it. After awhile the snail numbers lessened. Then at a Saturday talk at Roger’s Gardens I heard that snails live for several years, so if you diligently hand pick them there will soon be no more - but keep an eye out for newcomers. (We had a friend with a pet goose and conversely no snails.)

Brad Jenkins—“In 1996 the yard had plenty of turf grass, agapanthus, calla lilies, Australian flax, and strawberries; as well as snails living in the moist, edible, safe habitat. As native plants increasingly filled the landscape, the yard became dryer, plant “skins” were tougher, lizards and birds began ground patrols, and the snails disappeared.”

Christiane Shannon—“Many years ago, I purchased some decollate snails which eat brown snails and they are still around in my yard; if there is an explosion of snails, I go out a few times, early in the morning after watering the yard, and pick many by hand. The other chewing, slurping insects are controlled by the fence lizards, birds, and native praying mantises. My yard is well balanced and those critters are not much of a problem.”

Bob Allen—“I have very few snails & slugs my garden, since my yard is 100% Cal natives, kept on the dry side. But slugs & snails are totally destructive; the garden snail is non-native, as are most slugs you find. I hand pick and throw them into the air over the street; crows pick them up and eat them. I do not control any other critters in my yard; the spiders, insects, lizards, and birds do that! Note: Those bright orange oleander aphids are also non-native and destructive [see page 60 of Wildflowers of Orange County]. When they appear on my milkweeds, I sit down and remove them with q-tips soaked in rubbing alcohol, being very careful not to touch the eggs, larvae, or pupae of monarch or queen butterflies.”

Lou Murray—“We had snails in our yard when we moved to our present house in 1988. I converted the yard to drought-tolerant landscaping, bought some predatory decollate snails, and haven’t been bothered since. I did go out every morning and collect one coffee can after another of the slimy nuisances the first couple of years. Mechanical plus biological control did the job. Our yard is too dry for snails now.”

Chuck Wright—“Well, the snails are eaten by our non-native rats, opossums and perhaps native raccoons but they do not eat the slugs. For protecting herbs like basil for cooking I ring the plant with a 3 inch strip of copper, which seems to work but if the problem gets really bad I will squish a few and then put a piece of wood like a 1X6 over them. When their buddies come to feast the next morning I squish some more. Aargh.”

John Gossett—“I have not had snail or slug problems for a couple decades since I stopped growing vegetables. I used pie tins with beer back then, and it worked well enough for my purposes. I have had a couple minor infestations of spittle-bugs in the last few years. I used a hose and my fingers to wash off the cottony clouds and they did not come back.”

Barbara Eisenstein—“I rarely do anything about “pests” in the garden, though snails and slugs have been a problem. I pick off and squish any I see. I now accept the fact that depending on the rainfall pattern, many of the wildflower seedlings will be food for these garden molluscs. I have tried to make peace with all of the garden critters.”

Dan Songster—“I do have snail-attracting vegetables in one section of my yard, so I have tried iron phosphate (like in sluggo plus) on the perimeter of the garden, to catch the snails as they pass on their way in from the neighbors, but with limited success. I am starting to think that some of the predation I attributed to slugs and snails is due to pillbugs and other chewers.”

Sarah Jayne—“I never see snails or slugs, but their silvery slimey trails betray their guilt in the disappearance of every single baby lupine I’ve put out in my garden.”

Our Question for the Next Newsletter is: “What is your favorite native geophyte (bulbs, corms, tubers, etc)? Oh, and where did you get it?” 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

BANNING RANCH: The California Coastal Commission is bringing an enforcement action against Banning Ranch’s landowners for unpermitted habitat destruction and oil field activity. The matter is expected to be heard at the Commission’s March 11-13 meeting in Chula Vista.

ACTION NOW: Especially if you live in Newport Beach or Costa Mesa, contact info@banningranchconservancy.org for the exact date, time, and location, and plan to attend. A large turnout will tell the Commissioners that the public doesn’t want massive development on Banning Ranch.

CHINO-PUENTE HILLS

1. Madrona Litigation:
Hills For Everyone’s et al (which includes CNPS) opening brief was filed with OC Superior Court on Dec 22, 2014. Brea/Madrona’s reply brief was issued Feb. 12; our reply to their reply is due March 16. Oral arguments are tentatively scheduled for July 10th; stay tuned to hillsforeveryone.org/projects/active-threats/madrona/.

2. Esperanza:
This project is in unincorporated land near Yorba Linda, so the County of Orange governs its land-use decisions. The OC Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the project on Jan. 14. The project is scheduled before the OC Board of Supervisors, March 10 at 9:30 AM. More info: hillsforeveryone.org/projects/active-threats/esperanza-hills/.

SADDLE CREST LITIGATION: The Appeals Court has ‘til mid-March to make its decision; no word as of newsletter deadline. Stay tuned.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks has developed a new pilot program: the Sustainable Development Environmental Review Committee, related to the existing GreenVision Coalition. It is an endorsement program to support appropriate infill development that meets FHBP’s conservation goals. Developers must meet six criteria to be considered for endorsement. See fhbp.org/projects/SDERC.html, which includes a map of areas suitable for infill—and conversely areas not suitable, which includes all OC reserve lands and lands that are priority for preservation.

TRABUCO DISTRICT

The Cleveland National Forest has received funding from the California Off-Highway Vehicle Grants Program to decommission unauthorized routes that have the greatest resource impacts. See: fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=43836 for the detailed scoping letter, directions for commenting, and links to the maps—the most pertinent is TRD_UNA_Resource_Ranking_Scoping.

In the Trabuco District—our backyard Santa Ana Mountains—the largest concentration of unauthorized roads having the greatest resource impacts is on and around Elsinore Peak and stretching to Wildomar OHV Area. The area’s population of Munz’ Onion (CRPR 1B.1) is the resource being impacted. A smaller concentration of unauthorized roads is off South Main Divide Road near Tenaja Station; these roads mostly impact Arroyo Toad

Sarah Jayne—CNPS Fellow

By now you may have heard that our very own Sarah Jayne was nominated and has been made a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society. The naming of individuals as Fellows of CNPS is a means of awarding special recognition to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the success of the Society and its mission. The entire Statewide CNPS Chapter Council enthusiastically and unanimously adopted Sarah’s nomination on December 6, 2014. Certainly, the reading of the 91 names of those who have been given this honor since 1973 is impressive and now Sarah Jayne’s name is permanently etched onto that list as well. See cnps.org/cnps/support/fellows.php

Congratulations and thank you, Sarah, for all you have done for our Chapter and for CNPS over many years. (Some details about Sarah’s many accomplishments will be included in an upcoming Fremontia Journal article.)

The award itself will be presented at the CNPS Chapter Council meeting at the Yucca Valley Community Center, March 14, 2015. This is usually the last order of business at the end of a busy day, around 5 PM. A social hour follows that and later, the Chapter Council Dinner and speaker. This is a great way to spend an evening with other CNPS folks and the presentations are usually very informative.

Some chapter members will be there in an official role, but anyone is welcome. Those participating in the evening program would be well advised to arrange overnight lodging and if attending the dinner, reserve a spot and pay in advance.

For further information about the meeting and associated field trips and events, https://sites.google.com/site/cnpschaptercouncilmarch2015/home

No reservations are required to attend Chapter Council or the happy hour, but pre-registration for the dinner is a must.

March 13-15, 2014 - CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL DESERT MEETING
Yucca Valley Community Center (outside Joshua Tree National Park)
57090 Twentynine Palms Highway, Yucca Valley, CA
http://www.yucca-valley.org/

—Laura Camp
President, CNPS State Board
The few other small stretches of unauthorized road are mostly found in the vicinity of established authorized routes and near inholdings, and impact various other resources.

ACTION NOW: The 30-day scoping period ends Mar. 17. If there’s anything about the project and/or the sites that you think the FS ought to be aware of and to address in the project plan, now’s the time to tell them. See commenting directions at link above.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

Two songs from the Conservation Conference

**Nomenclature Song**
(to the tune of “Red River Valley”)

From this Jepson they say it is going; we will miss its old genus and species, for the Lumpers and Splitters have been busy and have DNA’d its old name to pieces.

CHORUS:

Come and wander the wilds if you love plants;
Do not hasten, but fall to your knees—
see the beauty in things both named and nameless, including those perplexing DYC’s. *

I've been thinking of Lotus scoparius, such a sweet name I once loved to say, now “corrected” to Acmispon glaber--
awkward bloom in the New Name Bouquet.

CHORUS (repeat)

**Tiptoe Through the Lupine**
(with apologies to Tiny Tim)

Tiptoe to your window, see my wild yard full of blooms and bees, and tiptoe through the lupine with me.

Tiptoe from your front lawn to the shadow of my live oak tree—
come tiptoe through the lupine with me.

Knee deep in buckwheat we’ll stray; we’ll keep the sprinklers away . . .

and if I rip all of your lawn out in the moonlight will you pardon me?

. . . and tiptoe through the lupine with me.

--- Thea Gavin

**TRIENNIAL CONSERVATION CONFERENCE RE-CAP**

What fun it was to join over 1,000 other California native plant lovers in San Jose in mid-January for a four-day whirlwind of workshops, speakers, exhibits, and best of all: poetry!

I went to so many excellent panel presentations about all kinds of horticultural, botanical, and conservation-related topics, but what sticks in my mind is the fine gathering of poets who read such wonderful plant-centric poetry on Thursday night. After that, things got a little native-plant-crazy, with a "Songfest and Music Jam" that featured native-plant-parody songs composed by me and my CNPS peers and performed by all of us till the wee hours in the conference hotel disco bar.

Each morning was highlighted by the opportunity to attend a botanical art presentation during which I was privileged to listen to, and watch, working artists whose artful, accurate paintings and drawings gave me a whole new appreciation of the beauty of our native plants. The juried display of their work, as well as the work of dozens of other artists, was another stellar aspect of the conference.

Yes, there was plenty of native plant science to keep the left brain working overtime all week, but I really appreciated how the intentional inclusion of poetry, music, and visual art provided a valuable balance and perspective to a conference whose purpose was, according to the re-cap on the CNPS web site, "to celebrate and advance plant conservation in California. Our native plants have a brighter future than ever before thanks to your dedication and collaboration, and we hope you have found inspiration from the conservation community to take on the challenges that our flora face in California and beyond."

Mission accomplished: I was definitely inspired, and am already looking forward to the next conference in 2018.

—Thea Gavin

**California Native Plant Week Celebration: Poetry and Photos Celebrating our Orange County Wildlands**

CNPS Orange County Chapter members Chuck Wright and Thea Gavin have spent many years roaming the sage-scented hills of Orange County—and writing about what they discover. You are invited to join them on Saturday, April 18, at 2:30 PM in the community room of the Cypress Branch Public Library as they present poems and photos that celebrate the places, plants, and creatures of our local wildlands. (Free. 5331 Orange Ave., Cypress, 90630. 714-826-0350 for more info.)
OCCNPS Launches Invasive Plant Management Program

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to native plant species persistence, surpassed only by direct habitat loss. Although millions of dollars are spent annually, success is challenged by the continued introduction of new species and the coordination necessary across landowners and managers.

OC-CNPS sees an opportunity to assist in resolving these challenges by providing: 1. Trained ‘eyes on the ground’ to report new populations of emerging weed species, 2. Facilitating management response with land managers, owners, and labor forces, and 3. Directly providing labor where needed to remove populations that otherwise may not be treated.

The OC-CNPS Invasive Plant Program priorities are focused on emergent weeds. The Chapter recognizes that several other weed species are a high priority regionally, but that its own capacity is limited.

Emergent weeds in Orange County are species known to be highly invasive in California but that only recently arrived in Orange County and/or still occur in only a few small populations. These species have the potential to be eradicated or contained long-term. Emergent weeds consist of (1) locally-occurring species that OC-CNPS has given top priority due to their local distribution, invasiveness, and ability to negatively impact native habitat, (2) other locally-occurring priority species that will be evaluated regularly, (3) potentially invasive species with unknown status, and (4) new potential invaders not yet been observed in here.

The list below is neither complete nor static, but it represents a manageable number of high priority weeds on which the Chapter will focus its efforts. OC-CNPS members are requested to become familiar with these species. If observed in Orange County, check the OC-CNPS website (“Invasive Plants”) to determine if the location is new. If so, we ask that you follow the instructions on the website, including recording the exact location, taking several identifying photographs and immediately reporting your find to invasives@occnps.org.

High Priority Emergent Species with Known Status


Spotted Knapweed (Centaura stoebe = maculata). Cal-IPC ranking: High.


Other Priority Species

Bladderflower (Araujia sericifera) Onionweed (Asphodelus fistulosus)

Bitou Bush (Chrysanthemoides monilifera ssp. monilifera) Cape Ivy (Delairea odorata)

Perennial Veldt Grass (Ehrharta calycina) Spiny Emex (Emex spinosus)

Canary Island Saint John’s Wort (Hypericum canariense) Summer Cypress (Kochia scoparia)

Whitetop (Lepidium draba) Creeping Water Primrose (Ludwigia hexapetala)

Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) Himalayan Blackberry (Rubus armeniacus)

Lily-of-the-Valley Vine (Salpiglossor origanifolia) Linear-leaved Australian Fireweed (Senecio linearifolius)

For more information and complete plant profiles of OCCNPS Emergent Invasive Species, visit OCCNPS.org and click Invasive Plants on the top ribbon.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, March 22—Elsinore Peak and S. Main Divide Road

Elsinore Peak is the southernmost peak of the Santa Ana Mountain peaks and offers an unusual habitat of grasslands with some coastal sage scrub and chaparral. The area near the peak is further unique due to its volcanic history and unusual foundation of basalt rock.

Saturday, April 11—Driving Tour of the Irvine Ranch Conservancy

This is a Members Only trip. Please go to occnps.org for details on signing up.

Sunday, April 12—Oak Flat, San Mateo Canyon Wilderness

Oak Flat is at the western edge of the San Mateo Canon Wilderness and accessed by a locked/private gate off Hwy 74. This seldom visited area is an oasis of grasslands surrounded by beautiful mature live oak woodlands. Special access will be granted to this group of CNPS members and their guests.

Sunday, April 19—McGinty Mountain, San Diego County

This 2,000 acre preserve near Jamul in southern San Diego County, under the management of several entities, is a rare habitat with an equally rare collection of plants.

Sunday, May 3—San Onofre State Beach

Please note that this is a change of date for this field trip. With permission from CA State Parks and MSMC Camp Pendleton, this trip will explore a coastal blufftop with small vernal pools and possibly spot California’s rarest species, Pendleton button-celery—Eryngium pendletonense.

Except where noted, field trips are free and open to all. For specific details on all of these trips and particular conditions at the time of trip, please consult our website at occnps.org.
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, March 19, 2015
Speaker: Sula Vanderplank
Subject: Botanizing Baja California by mule: Adventures into remote regions of Baja California, including cowboy uses of native plants.

When someone as adventurous as Sula Vanderplank is invited along on a series of mule trips through a large chunk of central Baja California, she does just what you might expect: She loads up her plant presses, camera, and sense of humor and enjoys what turns out to be a classic California adventure! Sula will take us along on her trip through some of Baja’s unique environments, affording us a glimpse of stunning scenery accessible only by mule and the cowboy culture of the isolated mountains as well.

A field botanist who loves natural history, floristics and conservation science, Sula’s graduate research has focused on the botany and ecology of the mediterranean-climate region of Baja California, Mexico, which is one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots. She actively collaborates with the land trust Terra Peninsular A.C., of Mexico, and has numerous local and regional collaborators in Mexico and the United States, helping to bring current science to regional conservation projects. For the last eight years she has published broadly on the flora of this region.

Sula recently finished her Ph.D. research with Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra at the University of California, Riverside, where she won the departmental student achievement award. She is now participating in a series of expeditions to explore new regions and document botanical diversity.

Thursday, April 16, 2015
Speaker: Joanne Schwartz
Subject: Fun with Mushrooms!

Explore the fascinating world of wild mushrooms and other fungi with amateur mycologist Joanne Schwartz. We will learn about finding and identifying fungi in Southern California, as well as their place in nature. We will also consider growing and eating them and hear some fun tales of Fungal Folklore. Joanne will bring her collection of mushroom hunting gear and ID resources … and mushrooms too, if they are fruiting locally.

Joanne Schwartz is an avid amateur mycologist, having studied fungi since the 1960s. She has collected and photographed fungi throughout the world and has participated in field studies recently in Peru and Bolivia as well as the Redwoods of coastal California.

Welcome to our new members, July 2014 to February 2015!

| George Ross | Dorota Geier | Janell Gibbons |
| Kurt Emmerich | Drew Irby | Carolyn Parsons |
| Peter Ott | Brian Jacobs | Matthew Sutton |
| Marianne Tornatore | Kathleen and MJ McCarthy | Robert Clifford |
| Rachel Veal | Lynn Monaghan | Gregg and Kathy Gatewood |
| Daniel Winkler | Barbara and Harry M Purdy | Shannon Crossen |
| Emily Griffoul | Pat Sparks | Catherine Fisher |
| Jason Stone | Michael Zell | Jodie Cook |
| Michelle Dorantes | Suzanne Popel | Renee Godinez |
| Terry LePage | Cody Kavanaugh | Kimberly Schmard |
| Megan Fitzgerald | Giner Venanzi | Kristen Wasz |
| Cristina Robinson | Sharon Friedson | |
| Duffy Clark | Jason Heuck | |
| Christine Crahan | Jackie Earnhart | |

Tree of Life Nursery and CNPS Team Up...

The California Native Plant Society, San Diego and Orange County Chapters, will celebrate Spring at Tree of Life Nursery with a special Membership Appreciation day! On March 7, 2015, 9 AM to 4:30 PM, the public is invited to free talks, including Bob Allen at 9:30 AM on "Attracting Amphibians and Reptiles to your Native Garden."
CNPS experts will be on hand to answer your questions. Members of CNPS always enjoy 10% off on plant purchases at Tree of Life Nursery’s Casa La Paz retail store, and on Membership Day will receive a free plant with any plant purchase.
Volunteers! Please contact Jennifer Mabley jenpod@gmail.com. No experience necessary; free 1-gallon plant and lots of fun is your reward!
Contact Information and Teams

Officers:
- President: Vacant
- Co-Vice-Presidents: Sarah Jayne, 949 552-0691, sbjayne@cox.net
- Secretary: Jutta Burger, 949 768-0431, jburger04@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Brad Jenkins

Board Members:
- Laura Camp, 949 370-3303, laurac@treeoflifenursery.com
- Thea Gavin, gavinfam@aol.com
- Dori Ito, 949 496-9689, doriinthegarden@gmail.com
- Celia Kucher, 949 593-2112, cella552@cox.net
- Jennifer Mabley
- Ron Vanderhoff, 949 855-2112, ronv@rogersgardens.com
- Rachel Whitt, 714 815-6782, rachelleewhitt@aol.com

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.

Name _________________________________
Address _________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________________
Phone/E-Mail _________________________________

Please charge my ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Phone #: _________________________________
Exp date _________________________________
Signature _________________________________

March/April 2015

FIRST CLASS MAIL