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 are listed in the order received.

Our question for this newsletter is: **What are some of your favorite native plants in winter and why?**

**Nancy Harris**—“One plant I always consider is Ribes viburnifolium (Catalina Perfume). It creates a lush forest atmosphere, needs little water, grows under oaks or other trees, but can take sun, has lots of berries, easy to prune if needed and is evergreen unlike other Ribes.”

**Terry LePage**—“Giant Coreopsis. (Leptosyne gigantea) It grows so fast (when it finally wakes up after looking dead for six months) I think you can see it grow by the day. It looks so cheery.”

**Ron Vanderhoff**—“Many of the Ribes, gooseberries and currents are very early blooming and for me they signify the beginning of the native plant season. The similar looking and similar growing Ribes malvaceum and sanguineum are very popular. I grow our locally native fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, Ribes speciosum as an espalier and love it’s golden-tan branches and spines all summer, followed by an incredible winter flower display that hummingbirds cannot resist.”

**Leon Baginski**—“Ceanothus. Blooms early and strong and leaves look their best with cool nights and winter rains.”

**Alan Lindsay**—“Winter? What’s winter—I don’t remember the last winter in Orange County thus making my choice difficult. The only one I can think of is the Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia) because of its red berries around Christmas. They not only are attractive but they attract birds. The one in my landscape is the island form, H. arbutifolia var marccocarpus from Tree of Life Nursery.”

**Sarah Jayne**—“Why do we have our garden tours in springtime when so much of our blooms happen in winter? Just one of my favorites is Fuchsia Flowering Gooseberry (Ribes speciosum). For most of the summer, it looks dead, but with the first rain of autumn, brilliant green crinkly leaves spring forth. The branches are soon hung with brilliant fuchsia baubles that dare hummingbirds not to notice. Arrayed with formidable stickers, this shrub is best located where it can be left to its own devices— or espaliered?”

**Dan Songster**—“The Manzanitas are exceptional winter bloomers and may be the very finest of the California’s winter plants, but since they are tough for me to grow in my clay soils I lean towards other species like Blue Dicks (Dicelostemma capitatum), most of the currants and gooseberries, (especially Ribes sanguineum var glutinosum and Ribes speciosum) as well as Hummingbird sage (Salvia spathacea). Curiously I have found the easy to grow bushruhe, (Cneoridium dumosum), to be delightful with a bit of white and a nice citrus scent to the flower. And for early flowers and an intriguing foliage scent it is always good to have a Fragrant pitchersage (Lepechinia fragrans) around. I am also fond of the grasses that like to start their winter growth with their new green, oh, and the lovely new green of California polypody fern (Polypodium californica). And bright red berries from Toyon of course! Winter is wonderfull!

Our Question for the Next Newsletter is: **This year is CNPS 50th anniversary year and the 35th anniversary for the Orange County Chapter. Please share one interesting memory from your time as a member.** 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

CNPS/OCCNPS has been asked to join the six-county-wide SCAG Environmental Coalition that OC Friends of Harbors, Beaches and Parks is coordinating. Over 20 organizations across SCAG’s region already support this effort.

The Coalition’s purpose is to ensure that SCAG’s (Southern California Association of Governments) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) for 2016 includes innovative and meaningful conservation policies. The Strategy does now include a Natural Lands Preservation component, which finally puts Conservation at the forefront of regional planning!

I am CNPS/OCCNPS’ acting point person to the Coalition. Preferably at least one alternate, for scheduling flexibility, will come from one or more of the 8 CNPS Chapters in SCAG’s region.

Participants in the Coalition will:

• Be a point of contact for the effort;
• Be invited to sign on to support letters for the policies;
• Be invited to speak during SCAG meetings to support the policies; and
• Get up-to-date information from FHBP on the policies as the process unfolds.

State CNPS has long desired that Chapters engage in RTP/SCS processes as they cycle through CA’s 18 Metro Planning Organizations (SCAG, SANDAG, SACOG, etc.). CNPS members with knowledge of botanical priority protection areas within an RTP area can bring that information into the SCS process.

For more about SCAG, see: sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/default.aspx.

Accomplishments of the 2012 Plan are detailed at: sustain.scag.ca.gov/Pages/LinksResources.aspx. This site includes numerous maps and much information.

The 2016 Plan is due to be issued soon, stay tuned.

FOREST PLAN REVISIONS: CNPS is part of a coalition of environmental groups who meet regularly with USFS Region 5 staff directing the development of Forest Plan revisions for the Inyo, Sequoia, and Sierra National Forests. The DEIS for the 3 forests is scheduled to be published in November or December and CNPS will be submitting comments. Currently, about 80% of potential wilderness areas that could be considered for such designation are not included on the list to be so considered, and a clear rationale for limiting the list is lacking.

ACTION NOW: If you are familiar with any of these national forests, please comment on the plan revisions at: secure.wilderness.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=2895&autologin=true. The more the Supervisors of these 3 Sierra Nevada NFs hear from the people, the more they’ll know we care.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

Updates from The Emergent Invasive Plant Committee:

Cape Ivy: On Oct. 8 an infestations at the mouth of San Mateo Creek was checked and mapped by OC CNPs. Stinkwort: In Sept. the Arroyo Trabuco colony was treated and then followed up with two chapter “pulls”, our second year of management here. On Oct. 7 OC CNPS director David Pryor coordinated a CA State Parks treatment and hand pull of the San Onofre colony, the first management at this location. On Oct. 21 Audubon Starr Ranch reported a single plant to the OC CNPS emergent hotline. It was mapped, photographed, removed and the area surveyed for additional plants. On Oct 25 a small new small was discovered by OCCNPS along Hwy. 74 near Hot Springs Canyon. All plants were removed and The Cleveland National Forest has agreed to on-going management of the colony. Perennial Pepperweed: On Oct. 4 a new colony was discovered by OC CNPS at the mouth of San Juan Creek. Lily-of-the-Valley-Vine: on Oct. 25 a small patch was discover by CCNPS in Hot Springs Canyon and removed. Moroccan Knapweed: on Oct. 16 the Big Canyon colony was field checked by OC CNPS and germination was found to be well under way. The IRC is actively managing the site and removal is ongoing.

OTHER NEWS: In late October, Emergent Invasive Committee members Jutta Burger, Dan Songster, David Pryor and Ron Vanderhoff attended the annual CA Invasive Plant Council Symposium in San Diego. The efforts of OC CNPS was mentioned several times and we were also a presenter at the event.

—Ron Vanderhoff

GARDEN TOUR 2016!

The date is set, mark your calendars—April 23, 2016.

That’s a Saturday and once again, the tour will be one day only.

The committee is currently looking at gardens and looking for gardens to visit.

Is YOUR garden ready to show off to an appreciative audience? Have you converted a front yard lawn to beautiful natives? Do you have an old, established native garden? We, the Garden Tour committee, would love to hear from you!

Contact us at gardentour@occnps.org.

Provide a few details about your garden and your contact information. We will be in touch.

—The Garden Tour Committee
Chapter Meetings
Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, except in July and August. Unless announced otherwise, meetings take place at the Duck Club in Irvine (see directions below). Doors open at 6:45 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

Thursday, November 19, 2015—South of the Border: The Fascinating Maritime Succulent Scrub of Baja California

Speaker: Jim Riley

Baja plant expert, Jim Riley will take us on a journey through the Maritime Succulent Scrub plant community in Northwest Baja California, examining its plants and including a look at its geology and fauna. This botanically rich area at the southern end of the California Floristic Province contains a number of endemic species (with over 30% of the plant species endemic or near their range limit) as well as many familiar California native plants. It is the unique intersection of xeric succulents with Coastal Sage Scrub plants that makes the Maritime Succulent Scrub so fascinating.

The area also is the subject of the recently published, bilingual plant guide*, co-authored by Jim Riley, Jon P. Rebman and Sula Vanderplank, served as valued editors and contributed photos. Books will be on sale at the meeting (sorry, no credit cards for this special purchase).

Jim Riley is the founder of the San Mateo Creek Conservancy and is acting manager of Reserva Natural Valle Tranquilo where he has spent the last two years coordinating biodiversity assessments and developing a vouchered plant checklist for the Valle Tranquilo region. Jon P. Rebman, PhD, is a plant taxonomist at the San Diego Natural History Museum and is the director of the San Diego County Plant Atlas project. Sula Vanderplank, PhD, is a conservation scientist, working as a Biodiversity Explorer for the Botanical Research Institute of Texas, and serves as Science Advisor for Terra Peninsular, AC.

Thursday, December 17, 2015—It’s Your Turn!

This is your chance to share a favorite flower or voyage or habit—locally or anywhere else in the world. The only rule is 5 minutes, that’s the limit. Everyone will get a turn and we’ll get home before midnight! Get ready for you FIVE minutes of fame!

Digital photos must be in a standard digital format—.jpg, .png, or .psd. Presentation software such as PowerPoint or Keynote is OK. We provide the computer, so bring in your presentation on a flash drive, portable hard drive, CD, or DVD. Windows users: no autoexec (.exe) files. Videos must be in standard video format: .mov (preferred), .avi, .wmv, or .mpeg (no .exe, Windows people). If you can arrive a little early, that will ease the transfer of your presentation to the main projecting device.

Following a long-standing tradition, board members will provide a festive spread on the hospitality table. If you have something you’d like to share (besides your photos!), you are welcome to bring it.

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

*Plant Guide: Maritime Succulent Scrub Region, Northwest Baja California, Mexico

$35.00

By: Jim Riley with Jon Rebman, and Sula Vanderplank

Publication Date: April 2015

Copyright © Botanical Research Institute of Texas

Specifications: 7.82"×10" (flexbound), 218 pp., color figs.

About the Book

A bilingual wildflower guide designed to reach a broad audience of botanists, conservationists, and lay people. But the Guide is more than a mere wildflower identification book; it also is an educational resource for beginners with a brief introduction to plant evolution and a quick guide to plant families. Beautifully illustrated with numerous drawings and color photos, the Guide covers over 210 plants in 44 families and includes the most common plants encountered in the area.
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
Acct #: ______________________________________
Exp date ________________________________
Signature ____________________________________
Phone # ________________________________

Contact Information and Teams

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

Board Members:
Laura Camp  949 370-3303  laurac@treeoflifensuery.com
Thea Gavin  gavinfam@aol.com
Dori Ito  dorinthebarden@gmail.com
Celia Kutch  celia552@cox.net
David Pryor  davidp pryor@gmail.com
Jennifer Mabley  949 855-2112  jenpod@gmail.com
Ron Vanderhoff  ronv@rogersgardens.com
Rachel Whitt  714 815-6782  soca lag jua r6@gmail.com

Membership Team:
Team Leads: 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, 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 Kutch
Invasive Plants: Henry DiRocco

Explore Team (Explore OC):
Team Lead: Ron Vanderhoff
Field Trips: Ron Vanderhoff
Field Trip Logistics: Rachel Whitt

Communications Team:
Team Lead: open
Publicity: Bob Huttar
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

November/December 2015

FIRST CLASS MAIL