CALCERNAL
May 5  BoD meeting
May 15  Field trip*
May 19  Chapter meeting
May 22  Field trip*
May 29  Field trip*
Jun 2  BoD meeting
Jun 5  Field trip*
Jun 11-12  Field trip*
Jun 16  Chapter Celebration
Jun 26  Field trip
No chapter meetings July & Aug
*Go to occnps.org and click on Field Trips for details

Native Gardeners’ 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.
The request for this edition of the OC-CNPS Newsletter is: “I found my Calochortus venustus that had sprouted so nicely eaten to the ground by rabbits and said, Arrgggh!!! What has made you say “Arrgggh” so far this year?”
Ron Vanderhoff—“My Aristida purpurea – purple three-awn grass. I should have known better, having seen the naturalized planting at Tree of Life Nursery, but I planted a few of these anyway. They are beautiful, but after trying to hand pull all the volunteers for the past few years I have now officially lost the battle. The patch is bigger every year. I need to make it go away before I have a complete “purple three-awn” landscape.”
Leon Baginski—“Snails!!! I live by the coast and the moisture in the air brings them out in this cooler weather and they eat all my lupine to the ground!!! Arghhhh!!!!”

Rama Nayeri—“For my own garden I ARGG that I have a 100 square feet of concrete patio, the only garden space I have that I cannot remove or change. I also have an AC unit that I cannot permanently cover.”
Mark Sugars—“Arrggastropods!”
Jeanne Carter—“I lost several plants to skunks digging for grubs at El Modena HS Nature Center. Arrgggh!!! Anyone have solutions? Wire mesh around the plants did not work.”
Helen Smisko—“After watching Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer/Fusarium (PSHB) attack Acer, Platanus, and Parkinsonia trees, it was then found on Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden’s first Populus tree.”
Laura Camp—“I looked out my back window this past winter, and my Arctostaphylos ‘Howard McMinn’ was wilted and obviously going downhill fast. At that point there was nothing I could do but watch it die. Arrgggh! In the end I only lost part of it (a main branch split) but part of it lived, and new growth is sprouting from a rooted branch, and will fill in the missing plant.”
Curt Craft—“My moment is with Encelia farinosa. I did not prune the stalks back and when some strong winds came along, some of the stalks broke off at the base of the plant. Arrgggh!!!”
Celia Kucher—“Hot dry winds, instead of the predicted rain, that dried up the Baby Blue Eyes & Freeway Lupines before their time.”
Sarah Jayne—“I arrived one morning at the native plant school garden I have tended for the last 8 years to find that half the garden had been stripped and replanted with non-native “drought tolerant” things. This was way beyond arrrggghhh!!
Dan Songster—“Besides my Calochortus being nibbled down to stubs by rabbits at Golden West College Native Garden (yes, it really did happen), at home my favorite 9 year old Humboldt Lily did not reappear this year but had rotted away. Super Arrrrgggh!!!!!”
Our question for the next newsletter is: “Which natives do really enjoy as a small tree and why?”
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 will vote on the fate of Banning Ranch on Thursday, May 12. The hearing starts at 9 AM at the Newport Beach Civic Center, 100 Civic Center Drive, Newport Beach (ample free parking).
At issue is whether several hundred high-end homes, a resort hotel, and retail space should be developed on Banning Ranch’s mesa. The 400-acre parcel is the largest unprotected coastal open space in OC. Despite having been an oil field for many decades, the site is still home to an amazing array of birds and wildlife in its still-vital riparian, coastal marsh, coastal sage scrub, grassland and vernal pool habitats. Banning Ranch should be a key part of the abutting Orange Coast River Park (maps: ocriverpark.org/where-is-it-located/), rather than yet another development.
At its hearing last October, the Commission rejected its staff’s recommendation to deny the proposed development. Instead, the developer was directed to work with Commission staff and members of the Banning Ranch Conservancy (BRC) on a smaller development, and return in May with a plan that could be approved. An effort was made to that end, but the plan is still massive.
BRC is calling on all OC residents to attend the hearing and help remind the Commissioners that if they are to truly uphold the Coastal Act, to truly abide by the Act’s requirements to protect sensitive coastal habitat and the wildlife that use it, they must deny the application for development of Banning Ranch.
BRC’s goal is to save as much land and habitat as possible. View their latest video: youtube.com/watch?v=b0rYp2jtXsw. BRC’s website, bannaringchconservancy.org/, contains much history and background on the site and the issues.

Continued on page 2
Dear Oak

I wish you would come and live in my yard. Make your statement about time and beauty and keep the squirrels amused...

wrap your gnarled branches around my wall and coat the earth with your little sharp shell leaves...

Shelter jays and mockingbirds. Leave secrets in your bark trails. Be home.

Home Depot cannot sell you. You are beyond price. Come home with me. Oh, maybe I am home.

Terry LePage
Laurel Canyon
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
11/20/15

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Anita Thompson recognized with special Chapter Award and More

April 23rd was a lovely day, with the sun out and everyone in a celebratory mood when chapter president Dan Songster presented the first Orange County CNPS Community Volunteer Award to Anita Thompson for her work in developing the native plant gardens and associated curriculum at the Mable Pendleton Elementary School in Buena Park.

It was good to see a garden that has received numerous Acorn Grants from our chapter looking so good, with plants labeled, pathways nicely mulched, and healthy plants everywhere. But it was especially satisfying to see a teacher as wonderful as Anita Thompson honored for her selfless work.

Since this was one of the gardens on our 2016 tour, it was a perfect time to recognize Mrs. Thompson’s hard work and determination in designing, installing, and maintaining the California Native garden and incorporating it into the school’s curriculum. It is this type of “beyond the book” teaching that truly engages children.

In addition to the CNPS award, Buena Park Mayor Fred Smith and Mayor Pro Tem Elizabeth Swift honored Mrs. Thompson with a Commendation from the City of Buena Park. Also present were Buena Park School District Assistant Superintendent Ramon Miramontes, and City Councilman Art Brown. Congratulations, Anita Thompson!

—Dan Songster

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Emergent Invasives Program Receives Letter of Commendation from Sea and Sage Audubon

Members of the Emergent Invasives Committee each received a Letter of Commendation on March 18 at the annual dinner of the Audubon Society’s Sea and Sage Chapter. The commendation expresses that Sea and Sage “...appreciates the committee's expertise and its use of Citizen Science and volunteer labor to make this very important contribution to preserve our native habitats and natural resources.” Sea and Sage annually awards Letters of Commendation to individuals who have made significant contributions to the protection of habitats, natural resources, birds or wildlife in Orange County.

Committee members Jutta Burger and Ron Vanderhoff will present a brief update on the committee at the May 19 general meeting. Be sure to come and be informed about this important component of our Orange County Chapter conservation efforts.

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CONSERVATION, continued

ACTION NOW:

• Attend the hearing: surveymonkey.com/r/PDV3HMX; carpools are being coordinated and refreshments will be provided.
• Sign the online petition: banninglegion.com/brc/
• Donate to the campaign: banneringanchconservancy.org/make-a-donation.html

NEW SCAG PLAN OFFERS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR CONSERVATION

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) recently adopted its 2016 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy. Background and details: scagtpcs.net/Pages/default.aspx.

OC’s Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks has for several years led a multi-county enviro coalition (including CNPS’ SoCal Chapters) in working with SCAG to incorporate meaningful measures into the Plan/Strategy, measures that can move SoCal conservation efforts forward.

The Plan/Strategy’s Natural and Farmlands Appendix focuses the measures into several policies; the four main ones:

• Expanding SCAG’s Natural Resource Inventory Database and Conservation Framework and Assessment by incorporating strategic mapping layers to build the database and further refine priority conservation areas.
• Encouraging County Transportation Commissions to develop advance mitigation programs and/or include them in future transportation measures.
• Aligning with funding opportunities and pilot programs to begin implementation of the Conservation Plan through acquisition and restoration.
• Providing incentives to jurisdictions that cooperate across county lines to protect and restore natural habitat corridors, especially where corridors cross county boundaries.

Now for the fun part: rolling up our sleeves and working closely with SCAG to implement these policies over the next four years!

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair
CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, May 19—Bryophyte Basics (for real this time)
Speaker: Paul Wilson
While we may be pretty good at identifying the flowering plants we see in our wildlands, the tiniest of Orange County plants may not even get a second look. These are the Bryophytes! Liverworts, mosses, and hornworts are quite different from the plants people are most familiar with—ferns, conifers, flowering plants, etc.

Just how do the mosses, liverworts and hornworts manage their existence without vascular tissue to move around moisture and nutrients? Actually, pretty well— their mostly tiny size helps a lot. Their habitats and life cycles are surprisingly varied and infinitely intriguing.

Bryophytes tend to be desiccation tolerant, “springing back to life” when moisture arrives, and many can grow a new plant just from a tiny fragment. Most vascular plants can’t do that. Bryophytes occur in a wide variety of habitats and not just wet spots. For example, California deserts are home to quite a number of mosses. If you thought that there was one kind of moss and they all look alike, you will learn differently! And the liverworts and hornworts are another whole story.

The talk will end with images of some must-know Orange-County mosses and liverworts from the February field trip that Paul led for us. Those who came along learned that it would take much more than one trip to even begin to distinguish among them!

Paul Wilson is a professor of ecology and evolution at California State University Northridge where he was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2011. A co-founder of the new Bryophyte Chapter of CNPS, he teaches a variety of field biology classes for non-majors and majors. This evening’s event is co-sponsored with the new CNPS Bryophyte Chapter.

Starting at 7:00 PM, Jutta Burger and Ron Vanderhoff will present a 15-minute update on the progress of our Emergent Invasives Program. After a look at a few of the upcoming season’s most important invasive plants, the updated list of OC emergent invaders and new Watchlist species will be released.

Find out how you can help.

Thursday, June 16—Natural Landscaping in Small Spaces and Chapter Celebration
Speaker: Mike Evans
Functional nature-based gardens can be created in very tight quarters (even in pots!) using native plants, native elements, and design techniques that incorporate the beauty of an ecosystem. Come learn how the principles of Japanese natural gardening (Hakoniwa) can be applied to landscaping in our beautiful southern California environment. The focus will be on diversity, habitat, resource conservation and our connection to the garden for healing and wellness. Mike will build a demonstration "eco-pot" that when done will go to the winner of an opportunity drawing!

Mike Evans is president and founder of Tree of Life Nursery, which has been in business 35 years, propagating, and growing approximately 400 varieties of California native plants on 40 acres near San Juan Capistrano. He finds that he can “go out to the wilderness” anytime by just letting his imagination run wild while he is taking care of a few of these potted native landscapes.

The program will begin at 7:30, but you may come at 6 to enjoy a walk in the preserve and a look at the new pollinator garden. The Duck Club will open at 6:45 for potluck refreshments. The chapter will supply drinks, utensils, and paper goods. If you’re coming early for the walk bring something savory or if you’re coming later, something dessert-ish. (Or just bring a friend.) Celia Kutcher wants your great photos of 2015-16 chapter activities for our year-end “slide” show. Send them to at celia552@cox.net

Enjoy with us this special celebration of the year’s achievements.

Chapter meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month except in July and August. Meetings usually take place at the Duck Club in Irvine. Doors open at 6:45 pm; the program begins at 7:30.

Directions to the Duck Club:
The Duck Club is located in the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary next to the IRWD water treatment facility. From the Jamboree exit of the 405:
Head toward Newport Beach. Go south (left) on Michelson to Harvard Avenue. Turn right on Harvard. At University Drive, turn right and stay in the far right lane. At Campus, turn right and stay to the right. The entrance to wildlife sanctuary is the next right. Turn left into the parking lot. The Duck Club is in the center, restrooms on the left, Audubon House on the right.

From the Culver exit:
Heading toward UCI, pass Michelson and continue on to University Drive. Turn right on University. Turn right onto Campus and stay to the far right for the turn into the wildlife sanctuary.

GARDEN TOUR 2017
Many thanks to the 15 gardeners who opened their gardens for this year’s tour! It’s not too early to start thinking about adding your garden to our next tour. In fact, now is the time to take pictures. Visiting private gardens throughout the county gives people who are thinking about incorporating natives in their landscapes the opportunity to see them incorporated into an array of landscape designs in diverse micro-climates and a variety of neighborhoods. The garden tour committee will be happy to check out your garden any time. Contact us at gardentour@occnps.org.
CNPS Membership Application
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[ ] Patron .............................................................. $300
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[ ] Mariposa Lily ..................................................... $1500
[ ] Student/Limited Income ...................................... $25
[ ] Affiliate with the Orange County Chapter.
[ ] Organizations, please go to CNPS.ORG

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
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Contact Information and Teams

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Team Leaders: Laura Camp, Interim
Volunteer Coordinator: Diane Wollenberg
Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mablay
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

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 Kutcher
Invasive Plants: Henry D’Rocco

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 Mablay
Website: Rich Schilk

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

May/June 2016

FIRST CLASS MAIL