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 are sorted in order received.

The request for this Edition of the OC-CNPS Newsletter is: “Which Summer and Fall blooming native plants are your favorites?”

Thea Gavin - “I have several buckwheat species in my backyard garden; all are profuse summer bloomers that hold onto the lovely dried flowers for a long time.”

Leon Baginski - “Oenothera hookeri, given enough water in late spring and mid summer will throw out big yellow flowers well into the fall while the already formed seed pods further down the stem attract American finches.”

Antonio Sanchez –“Abutilon palmeri - This roundish ball of orange flowers does well in the summer heat and responds to heavy pruning to keep it flowering thru much of spring, summer and fall. Doesn’t seem to mind a little extra water during the summer, much like the monsoons it gets from its native desert areas, to keep it fresh looking and flowering for months. Also, Eriogonum x blissianum—a nice hybrid of E. giganteum and E. arborescens, it can look like a Cleveland Sage when young and full of leaves, and the spring-summer flowers are an excellent mix of its 2 parents, pinkish-white, large and showy. Excellent bee and butterfly plant. Has responded well to aggressive dead-heading to keep it lightly flowering through fall. Good for gardens that may not have room for E. giganteum.”

Rama Nayeri - “I know this is not 100% native but I really like Autumn Sage because of all the varying flower colors.”

Bart O’Brien - “Big favorites include Arctostaphylos refugioensis and Ribes malvaceum – always the first shrubs to bloom of the “new” year – sometimes even starting before the first rains of the fall. The zauschnerias of course! And the myriad fall-blooming composites and buckwheats for both beauty and beneficial insects (as well as pollinators).”

Jeanne Carter - “I love yarrow because of the many colors it comes in and it is a great cut flower. I find that it along with sages lasts a long time in a vase, and it is such an easy care plant.”

Sarah Jayne - “One plant that consistently blooms its heart out spring, summer and fall and tolerates a wide variety of conditions, including neglect, is Bahiopsis lacinia, San Diego Marguerite. Cut back severely in late winter to make room for spring ephemerals, it snaps back vigorously in early summer to provide a patch of golden sunshine for the rest of the year.”

Dan Songster –“Seaside Daisy (Erigeron sp), all the California Fuschias of course, and Corethrogynne filaginifolia, California sand aster. For an amazing array of pollinators as well as the bright yellow blooms I really like the Isocoma menziesii, Coastal goldenbush. But for length of summer bloom and a variety of blossoms, the buckwheats can’t be beat.”

Our Question for the Next Newsletter is: “Many of us had a terrible time with non-native ants this past summer and fall.”

CONSERVATION

Two different, but overlapping, proposals have been made to designate part or all of our backyard Santa Ana Mountains as a National Monument. Stay tuned to see if a Monument is designated, and if so, what it includes!

1. The Santa Ana Mountains to Sea National Monument would encompass about 101,500 acres of OC, principally:
   - Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
   - Crystal Cove State Park
   - Upper Newport Bay
   - Bommer Canyon
   - about 1/3 of the Trabuco District (Cleveland National Forest).


2. A small group, which included activists from the Sierra Club and the California Chaparral Institute, met earlier this summer to discuss a Santa Ana Mountains National Monument that would encompass the entire range, with about the same boundaries as the Trabuco District.
Another meeting on this proposal is scheduled for Sept. 22, 10-1, at the Wildomar Library, 34303 Mission Trail, Wildomar, CA. About 35 are signed to attend, including several OC residents. If you would like to attend, contact Linda Castro, lcastro@calwild.org. Video call-in is available. To carpool from San Juan Capistrano, contact Celia Kutzer, celia552@cox.net.

The idea of designating the Santa Ana Mountains as a National Monument has been around for a while. One version, the “Grizzly Bear National Monument” was so-called in honor of the last grizzly bear in California, which was killed in Trabuco Canyon in 1908.

There is precedent for turning a National Forest into a National Monument. In 2014, large parts of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests were designated the San Gabriel Mts. National Monument.

FAIRVIEW PARK’S FUTURE TO BE VOTED ON IN NOV.

Two initiative measures on Fairview Park are expected to be on the ballot in the City of Costa Mesa:

- The initiative sponsored by the Fairview Park Preservation Alliance calls for keeping Fairview Park as a natural and open space that allows passive recreation while protecting the site’s native habitats (including a complex of vernal pools). See fairviewparkalliance.org for background and wording of the initiative.
- The initiative sponsored by three pro-development City Council members calls for a sports complex and fields for organized team sports.

LITIGATION:

Esperanza Hills: In early July, the court decided in favor of the co-defendants (CNPS among them), stopping the project—at least temporarily. The Esperanza Hills proponents’ response is pending.

Madrona: Last November, the court decided in favor of Hills for Everyone and co-defendants (CNPS among them), stopping the project. In January, the Madrona proponents filed an appeal against the decision. Hills for Everyone and co-defendants have filed to defend the decision. Fundraising to support the defense is underway; a Stop Madrona event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24th, 4:30 to 7:30 PM, in Brea. Get tickets: hillsforeveryone.org/donate/fundraiser/. Background and details at HillsforEveryone.org and StopMadrona.org.

—Celia Kutzer. Conservation Chair

EMERGENT INVASIVE PLANTS

This spring and summer OCCNPS been very actively involved in Emergent Invasive Plants in the county. Here are just a few quick updates of our recent activities. For more information and complete Status Update information, visit Invasives at OCCNPS.org.

Araujia sericifera – BLADDERFLOWER: New colonies were discovered at Huntington Central Park, Mason Regional Park and along San Diego Creek at Jamboree Rd.

Asphodelus fistulosus – ONIONWEED: Plants in Santiago Creek near Williams Canyon Road were treated. The El Modeno Hills plants were treated by OC Parks/OCCNPS for a second year and plants along South Main Divide Road plants were also treated.

Brassica tournefortii – SAHARA MUSTARD: New populations were found near the OC Great Park, at Fremont Canyon, in Newport Beach, at Casper’s Park and near the Nix Nature Center. Management of these and other colonies continues.

Centauere salistilalis – YELLOW STAR THISTLE: 2,300 plants were removed by OCCNPS, including along the Ortega Hwy and during our second chapter sponsored thistle pull in Silverado Canyon.

Delairea odorata – CAPE IVY: New colonies were discovered and plotted in Laguna Canyon (two locations). We are working with the Laguna Canyon Foundation on management.

Dittrichia graveolens – STINKWORT: In our third year of management, 870 plants were removed by OCCNPS at the Arroyo Trabuco colony. A new colony containing about five plants was discovered near the mouth of the Santa Ana River.

Emex spinosa – SPINY EMEX: New colonies were discovered at Peter's Canyon Regional Park, at Upper Newport Bay and at Temple Hill in Laguna Beach.

Lepidium draba – WHITETOP: The Jamboree & MacArthur Blvd. colony was greatly reduced this spring due to recent management activity.

Melinis repens – NATAL GRASS or RUBY GRASS: A single plant was located in Santa Ana Canyon by OCCNPS.

Robinia pseudoacacia – BLACK LOCUST: Additional locations discovered by OCCNPS include Veeh Reservoir (Laguna Hills) and a large colony at El Horno Creek (San Juan Capistrano).

Rubus armeniacus – HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY: A new, well-established colony was discovered by OCCNPS along El Horno Creek (San Juan Capistrano).

Senecio linearifolius var. linearifolius – LINEAR-LEAVED AUSTRALIAN FIREWEED: An additional sub-colony was located near the Salt Creek population.

Volularia tubuliflora – MOROCCAN KNAPEWEED: A few disconnected plants were located near the Muth Center at Upper Newport Bay about a mile from the known infestation. Aggressive management continues on these populations.

—Ron Vanderhoff

SIERRA VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CUTS THE RIBBON FOR A NEW GARDEN

On Earth Day, 2016, students, families and friends of Sierra Vista Elementary School in Placentia held a ribbon-cutting for the new pollinator garden on campus. Sierra Vista’s green club, Ecolutions, won an Acorn Grant from the Orange County chapter of the California Native Plant Society that funded the project. Recently, there has been an alarming decline in native pollinator populations. Pollinator Paradise, the name for the new garden, will aid in the protection of these crucial species. Congratulations, Sierra Vista!
Garden magazine.

She is a life member of the San Diego Union California. She is a longtime regional garden writer in Southern California. Lucy Warren is a recognized leader in the field of native plant design, which specializes in creating stable, sustainable, ornamental, low-input gardens with substantial habitat and wildlife value. Greg’s business has been the subject of articles in Kiplinger’s, the Wall Street Journal, and the Los Angeles Times. He regularly gives presentations on native plants to organizations throughout California.

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Thursday, September 15—The Drought-defying California Garden: Native Plants for a Lush, Low-water Landscape

Speakers: Greg Rubin and Lucy Warren

As native plant lovers we are aware that home landscapes that require copious amounts of water simply aren’t an option anymore. But that doesn’t mean you have to settle for barren expanses of rock mulch or artificial turf. California native plants can create a lush, wildlife-friendly landscape that requires minimal irrigation once it’s established. Learn which plants will work best in your yard, how to get them established, and how to keep them looking great all year long.

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Thursday, October 20—Native Bees and Native Plants

Speaker: Hartmut Wilson

This beautifully illustrated program explores the great diversity of California native bees—approximately 1600 species!—that co-evolved with our native flora. Some of these bees are generalists that pollinate a variety of flowers while others are more specialized. All six recognized families of bees will be discussed.

Hartmut discovered a love for macro photography and a fascination with the diversity of our insect fauna after working for 35 years as a naturalist-guide taking European visitors through Western North America. His special interest is in observing and identifying our native bees. He is a contributing editor at bugguide.net (Iowa State U. Entomology) and a member of the Lorquin Entomological Society.

GARDEN TOUR 2017

The garden tour committee is eager to start checking out gardens for next year’s tour on April 8 (and 9??). Contact us at gardentour@occnps.org to arrange for a visit. Front yard conversions, interesting back yards, spaces large and small—gardens should be at least 50% native, the more the better. If in doubt, let us help!
CNPS Membership Application

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[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.

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Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley
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Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster
Programs: Dan Songster
Audio-Visual: Bob Allen, Dan Songster

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Plant Sale: Dan Songster
Garden Tour: Mabel Alazard, Jennifer Beatty, Dori Ito, Sarah Jayne, Karen Wernicke

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Rare Plants: Dave Bramlet, Fred Roberts
Interest Center: Bob Allen

Conservation Team (Protect OC):
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Invasive Plants: Henry DiRocco

Explore Team (Explore OC):
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September/October 2016

FIRST CLASS MAIL