California In My Garden—Saturday, April 8, 10 am to 4 pm

Twenty—20—gardens throughout Orange County, our 14th California native plant garden tour! Sign up to receive the FREE tour guide/ticket at occnps.org. These will be mailed from mid-March to April 4. After that, visit the website for more information. Then gather a car full of friends, pack a lunch, and enjoy the day!

**CALANDAR**

Mar 2 ...............BoD meeting
Mar 4 ............IRC Wildflower Day
Mar 12 ....................field trip
Mar 16 ...............Chapter meeting
Mar 17 ...............field trip
Mar 19 ...............field trip
Mar 26 ...............field trip
Apr 2 ...............field trip
Apr 6 ...............BoD meeting
Apr 8 .............Garden Tour
Apr 9 ...............field trip
Apr 15-16 ..............field trip
Apr 20 ...............Chapter meeting
Apr 22-23 ............Green Scene
Apr 23 ..............field trip
Apr 27-30 ..... South Coast Plaza
Apr 30 ...............field trip
May 4 ...............BoD meeting
May 7 ...............field trip

**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. The request for this edition of the OC-CNPS newsletter is: “Do you grow any native plants because they are especially entertaining, interesting, or just plain weird?”

**Leon Baginski**—“Although not strictly native, I enjoy my organ pipe cactus. Slow grower but always reminds me of my trip to the national monument of the same name. Also love my ocotillo!! It is so odd for coastal garden. Unfortunately gophers seem to like the roots.”

**Laura Camp**—“We have pipevine (Aristolochia californica) blooming right now outside the Tree of Life office. The dutch pipe flowers are plentiful and bizarre and brown, and it’s weird because with the leaves in dormancy you can’t even tell that it’s flowering until you get up close—then the elaborate shapes and camouflage coloring make me go ‘whoa!’”

**Bob Allen**—“At home, I grow Ceratophyllum demersum, aquatic hornwort or coontail, an odd aquatic flowering plant in the Order Ceratophylales (only 6 species), sister group to all Eudicots. It lives in a 20 inch tall glass vase full of water with a bubbler to keep it aerated.” [http://uceps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=18711](http://uceps.berkeley.edu/eflora/eflora_display.php?tid=18711)

**Greg Rubin**—“I can think of a couple cool and weird ones. First, Redshanks (Adenostoma sparsifolium). I wish people would consider it more for its beautiful, almost Dr. Seuss-like quality as a small tree. One of the most beautiful sites I’ve seen was south of Idyllwild where a naturally occurring stand of redshanks formed a backdrop for a mass of little Ceanothus greggii. Very simple and gorgeous. I couldn’t have designed it better than Nature already had.”

A plant that I wish was more available is the Maurandya antirrhiniflora. It’s a little snapdragon vine whose flower color varies between red and blue depending on soil pH (apparently). Although it is somewhat herbaceous, it is a little thing that is so well suited to small-scale features like courtyard trellis’s or hidden gardens. It is very drought tolerant and I’ve actually seen the flower color change from the pot to the ground! Related to Monkey flowers and Penstemons.

Finally, if you have the room, the Fremontodendron x Chiranthodendron hybrid is huge and fun and it is the fastest thing I’ve ever seen (mine grew from a 2” pot to 30+ feet in 2.5 years!)

**Rama Nayeri**—“I have various varieties of Dudleya’s that are growing nicely indoors. They don’t get watered all that much and are still thriving.”

**Chuck Wright**—“Blue-eyed grass, Sisyrinchium bellum, comes to mind. It was one of the first plants I bought and planted many years ago when someone brought some to a CNPS meeting in 2 inch pots. 15 years later they still pop up all over the yard but never overwhelming it. At first I was bothered by their shabby looks with dead leaves and I painstakingly pulled each dead brown leaf off. When I mentioned this to Sarah Jayne and Celia, they both said why just whack them back and they will come back. I do and they do. They are a cheery blue delight.”

**Brad Jenkins**—“Calochortus - Eye-catching, elegant Calochortus flowers mesmerize me. Evidently other people too…. In the yard (C. splendens and catalinae) or on the trail, plant novices always ask for the name. The more knowledgeable smile delightfully while looking at the structure and for insects inside. The entertainment value must be high because of what growers put up with…. The bulbs hide below ground most of the year, and only a dainty leaf and stem arises during winter. Spring flowers seem short lived. Bulbs require summer dry locations, and each fall I wonder, did they survive?”

**John Gossett**—“I planted an apache plume this year. I like it both for its flying-cloud seed heads and its name: Fallugia paradoxa.”

**Dan Songster**—“I used to grow Horsetail (Equisetum sp) to use the plant as a very fine sandpaper but it got too invasive. Isocoma menziesii is the most entertaining of pollinator magnets around. How enjoyable just watching which insects use it each day. Oh, and all the native medicinal or herbal or food plants are fun to learn about.”

Our Question for the next newsletter is: “What are your three “Go-To” native plants when designing or renovating a garden?”

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

OCCNPS has commented on some recent Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) and similar documents.

West Alton Parcel Development Plan draft EIR: OCCNPS is one of several signatories to Laguna Greenbelt’s letter extensively detailing this Plan’s numerous flaws. Laguna Greenbelt spearheads a coalition of nine enviro groups (including OCCNPS) with the goal to establish the Coast to Cleveland Wildlife Corridor that will link the 22,000-acre Coastal and the 150,000-acre-plus Central portions of the Natural Communities Conservation Program (NCCP) of OC. The long-planned six-mile-long corridor is badly needed to allow safe passage of wildlife between the two areas. Such passage is essential to maintain healthy biodiversity, especially in the Coastal portion.

ACTION NOW: Laguna Greenbelt needs volunteers to help analyze images taken by cameras along the Corridor route. To help, contact wildlifecorridor.org or gabriela.worrell@gmail.com.

Final Restoration Plan for Tree Trimming/Removal Activities in Aliso Creek, The Ranch at Laguna Beach, in Resolution to Coastal commission Violation No. V-5-15-0125 [Revised January 23, 2017]: Action on this Coastal Act violation was brought by the Sierra Club Hobo-Aliso Task Force, joined by Sea and Sage Audubon. OCCNPS concurs that there is an important principle here: landowners/managers in the Coastal Zone must abide by the Coastal Act.

The Plan, covering the 3/4-mile-long riparian area in the golf course (old Ben Brown’s), has the potential to achieve stable protection and restoration of native vegetation in this much-abused reach of Aliso Creek. Realization of that potential will depend on how well the management protocols are carried out over time.

Our comment letter also brings the nearby population of the emergent invasive Boneseed, and our Emergent Invasive Program, to the Coastal Commission’s attention.

SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes Connector Project Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS: This project would require that ownership of 5 acres along the northern edge of the 1,000-acre Gypsum Canyon Nature Preserve be permanently transferred to CalTrans. The 5 acres is a steep-ish slope above the existing SR-91, with little native vegetation or habitat value. OCCNPS opposes the transfer in principle, but does understand the practical-management aspects of such an ownership change in this case.

The document includes detailed information regarding application of various laws, ordinances, and regulations (LORS) that apply to situations in which park land is taken for non-park use. The Gypsum Canyon Preserve area was protected in 2006 as part of a (federal) Natural National Landmark. Since being so designated, the land has been donated to OC Parks, so is now protected under both the (federal) Section 4(f) [of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966] and the (CA) Park Preservation Act. The Act requires that compensation be made in such ownership transfers. What that compensation might consist of is not stated in the Draft EIR/EIS, but can be a land swap and/or financial compensation.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

EMERGENT INVASIVE PLANT REPORT: FEB 24

Volutaria Assistance Needed:

Volunteers are needed immediately (no experience required) to remove Volutaria from Borrego Springs. Volutaria tubuliflora is a new and highly invasive weed in Southern California. This would be a great opportunity to remove a high priority weed before it becomes a widespread problem, as well as visit Borrego Springs for some desert recreation. The Borrego Springs infestation occurs on 20 sites scattered over a 5-mile span and is in desperate need of volunteers to pull/hoe weeds as well as map the spread. If you can help

Contact Chris McDonald, cjmcDonald@ucanr.edu, mid-Feb and March. Depending on availability, the UCI Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center has offered overnight facilities (approx. $40 or less per person) to the Volutaria pullers.

2016oct30

as toddlers my sons
with a jack-in-the-box
turning the crank
singing the tune
the anticipation built
and then POP
up sprang the clown &
giggles filled the room

i recalled this delightful
memory
while walking up canyon trail
with a diligent group
desperately seeking
butterflies
we stopped & gaped
no anticipation proceeded
what we say
but as though the crank had
cranked
POP
& there on the ground
at our feet
delicate tiny white
flowers
above the dark moist
soil
it was as if they had just
popped
like the jack-in-the-box &
delighted us one and all
GLEE

Canyon Trail
James Dilley Preserve
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
Coast Jepsonia
Jepsonia parryi

chuck wright

Grants awarded

Asseneth Berbeo of Cal Poly Pomona, has been awarded the 2017 Charlie O’Neill Grant for her floristic studies on the San Jose Hills, Los Angeles Co.

Buena Park Junior High School students will use their Acorn Grant to convert a weedy patch of grass into a Coastal Sage Scrub habitat.

We wish our grant recipients every success in their projects.

See INVASIVES page 3
Thursday, March 16—Wild Suburbia: Learning to Garden with Native Plants
Speaker: Barbara Eisenstein

In her recently published book, Barbara Eisenstein guides us through the process of transforming a traditional, high water-use yard into a peaceful habitat garden. Because there are so many variables in gardening, answers to even simple questions about establishing a native plant garden are rife with caveats and exceptions. Wild Suburbia describes some of these variables so that gardeners will be better able to select the best practices for their own conditions.

The audience will be encouraged to share horticultural practices that worked, along with those that did not. The evening will conclude with a discussion of how members of CNPS might improve the dissemination of accurate information on sustainable gardening with California native plants.

Barbara Eisenstein, a South Pasadena resident, is a research associate and former horticultural outreach coordinator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California. She is the horticultural chair of the San Gabriel Mountains chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and founder and head of Friends of South Pasadena Nature Park.

Thursday, April 20—Top Ten Wildflower Families of Orange County
Speaker: Bob Allen

With the plentiful rains (it’s about time!), wildflowers are popping in OC. We’ll look at the ten most common or obvious families of plants and discuss how to identify them. Family characteristics will be presented, along with photos of our beautiful local species, and their life histories.

Frequent references will be made to the Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains, so bring along your copy (and perhaps a book light) to follow along. Printed mini-guides to those plant families will be available (if Bob finishes them in time for the meeting!)

Bob Allen is an entomologist, botanist, instructor, nature photographer, and author. He grew up in Garden Grove, San Juan Capistrano, and Mission Viejo. He is a Research Associate in Entomology at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and Research Associate at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Co-author with Fred Roberts of Wildflowers of Orange County and the Santa Ana Mountains, he also teaches at community colleges in Orange County.

INVASIVES—continued

Separately, OC CNPS, OC Parks and The Newport Bay Conservancy are coordinating a Volularia pull at Upper Newport Bay, the site of the second of three US. Volularia infestations. Details and dates are not ready yet, but it is likely to be in mid to late March. If you’d like to be notified of this and other local invasives, send a brief note to invasives@occnps.org.

Other Invasive News:
OC CNPS was well represented at a January Weed Management Area (WMA) meeting in Irvine. Several discussions ensued about Orange County invasive plant issues and activities. OC CNPS is now an active member of this important collaboration and Orange County will now be represented and future quarterly meetings of this WMA will alternate between Riverside and Orange County.

On Feb. 2: Cenchrus echinatus confirmed at San Onofre State Park.

On Jan. 19: The OC CNPS general meeting was devoted to the chapter’s Emergent Invasive Plant Management Program. 60 members and guests participated.

On Jan. 8: A survey by OC CNPS revealed a new large colony of Volularia tubuliflora at Upper Newport Bay on the mesa adjacent to Irvine Blvd. The population, which appears to number in the thousands was mapped and posted to Calflora. Several interested parties, including OC Parks, Cal-IPC and others, were notified. Management began on January 16.

—Ron Vanderhoff

FIELD TRIPS
Visit ocnps.org for full details on these field trips and for the latest accurate information.

March 4—Irvine Ranch Conservancy Seed Farm Open House and Native Plant Celebration—RSVP required.

March 12—Silverado Canyon & Maple Springs Truck Trail

March 17—Baker Canyon, Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks—RSVP required.

March 19—Elsinore Peak and S. Main Divide Road

March 26—Coal Canyon, Northern Santa Ana Mountains—RSVP required.

April 2—Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve & Vernal Pools—RSVP required. CNPS members only.

April 9—Driving Tour of the Irvine Ranch Natural Landmarks—RSVP required. CNPS members only.

April 15-16—Tejon Ranch, Ventura County—$40 donation. RSVP required. CNPS members only.

April 23—Oak Flat, San Mateo Canyon Wildermess

April 30—O’Neill Park, Edna Spalding Trail & Coyote Canyon

May 7—Black Star Canyon

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

Directions: 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 turn right into the wildlife sanctuary.
CNPS Membership Application
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[Organizations, please go to CNPS.ORG]
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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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Membership Team
Team Leader: Laura Camp
Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mabley
Hospitality: Sarah Jayne
Greeters: Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty
Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster
Programs: Dan Songster
Audio-Visual: Bob Allen, Thea Gavin, Bob Huttar

Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC):
Team Co-Leaders: Dan Songster, Kristen Wernick
Plant Sale: Dan Songster
Garden Tour: Mabel Alizard, Jennifer Beatty, Dori Ito, Sarah Jayne, Kristen Wernick

Plant Science Team (Research OC):
Team Lead: Bob Allen
Rare Plants: Dave Bramlet, Fred Roberts, Ron Vanderhoff

Conservation Team (Protect OC):
Team Lead: Celia Kutcher

Invasive Teams
Team Co-Leads: Ron Vanderhoff, Jutta Burger
Members: Bob Allen, Thea Gavin, Celia Kutcher, David Pryor, Dan Songster

Explore Team (Explore OC):
Team Lead: Ron Vanderhoff
Field Trips: Diane Etchison, Jonathon Frank, Rachel Whitt

Communications Team
Team Lead: open
Publicity: Bob Huttar
Newsletter: Sarah Jayne
eNews: Laura Camp & Rachel Whitt
Publications: Brad Jenkins, Jennifer Mabley
Website: Rich Schilk

Grants Team:
O’Neill Grant: Jutta Burger
Reviewers: Bob Allen, Celia Kutcher, Fred Roberts. Ron Vanderhoff
Acorn Grant: Sarah Jayne
Reviewers: the Board of Directors

March/April 2017

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FIRST CLASS MAIL