Our question for the next newsletter is: **“These dry fall days make me think of water. Do you use water as a feature in your native garden—if so how?”**

Chuck Wright: “I have to have a birdbath. It is on a timer and fills once a day and every week I hose it out. I also have a pump, which keeps the water disturbed and the mosquitoes perturbed. I have cover for the birds and a large picture window, which allows me to enjoy their visits. I had a small water pond on the ground but the nasty red fox squirrels commandeered it and chased everything away and the raccoon kept tossing the pump out. The birdbath is much larger and therefore high enough off the ground to be a birds-only site.”

Thea Gavin: “My backyard’s native garden would be such a lonely place without its shallow bubbling of water; I’ve witnessed so many birds, lizards, bees, and other critters (yes, I’m talking about you, scrappy possum neighbor) sipping and dipping in the barely-moving fountain flowing just outside our kitchen window—a never-ending adventure show, as long as the water is kept fresh and skimmed clear of leaves/flowers from the lovely overhanging desert willow (**Chilopsis linearis** ‘Burgundy’). Having a tree nearby to perch in seems important to the birds’ strategies for entering/exiting the water.

“That fountain was store-bought decades ago; more recently my husband Steve built a very different sort of “bird bath” fountain for the Heritage Garden at Concordia University from a piece of tree stump (the base) and a free-form rectangular-ish, shallow basin he created out of a bag of concrete. Water movement is essential to attract birds, so this fountain employs a bit of dedicated drip tubing fastened to a piece of curved metal over the basin. Its very low flow rate (a few drops per minute) attracts smaller birds who love to hang sideways and imbibe as the drops form. Other birds enjoy drinking as well as ruffling their feathers in the shallow basin. (And, every now and then, messy old crows come through and foul the water by moistening their latest garbage-can fast-food finds in it.)

“Water for critters in a native garden: I would rate it essential to the entire enterprise!”

Jennifer Beatty: “I have three re-circulating fountains. The sound and view of the water is a joy. Each fountain is in a different area of my garden (partial shade, full sun, and on a backyard stoop). Different bird species come to drink and bathe in different seasons. Many insects also benefit from the water, and I have some plant species that appreciate the extra water from birds splashing. There are many photo opportunities, though I am tempted to put up a ‘duck blind’ in Spring to get close to the activity without scaring off the birds. Two of the fountains were purchased at retail fountain/statuary places, and one I made from a large piece of pottery, a pump kit and gravel. I think that having fountains enhances the look and feel of the garden and provides an enjoyable habitat for many creatures.”

Dan Songster: “At Golden West College Native Garden we have a small re-circulating fountain set low among small boulders with Rush and other plants that make you think of water. Birds of all kinds compete to use it daily for bathing and drinking. Being near the spot where the volunteers have their coffee break we have a close view of the colorful birds using it despite our being less than 20 feet away. The sound of the water ‘gurgling’ is nice for us humans too.”

Our question for the next newsletter is: **“Of course we all love Tree of Life Nursery, but what are your favorite mail-order seed, bulb, or plant nurseries/companies for native plants? What are their specialties?”** Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Please remember to keep replies brief so we can include most of the responses!
COAST TO CLEVELAND WILDLIFE CORRIDOR
The final EIR is expected soon for the proposed dense residential development—970 units in multi-story buildings—on a County-owned 44-acre parcel at the corner of Alton Parkway and Irvine Blvd. The project site straddles an 11-acre wildlife corridor segment that the County previously built as mitigation for realigning Borrego Creek and widening Alton Parkway. The corridor segment was intended to link the mostly still-natural 900-acre FBI property, to the north, with the Great Park corridor segment and ultimately to the 22,000 acres of Coastal Greenbelt parks to the south. The proposed dense development on both sides of the corridor will bring too much noise, light, and intrusion of people and their pets. Wild animals and birds will be less likely to use the segment, defeating the purpose of the overall corridor. Background on the corridor: lagunagreenbelt.org/coast-to-cleveland-wildlife-corridor/. Project plans: occgov.com/gov/ceo/currentplans/current_plans/westalton.asp.

BOLSA CHICA
The Bolsa Chica Land Trust has committed to raising $1 million to buy the adjoining Ridge and Goodell properties. So far they have raised $600,000. The properties, totaling 11 acres, are a unique archaeological site as well as a still-natural addition to the 1200 acres that have already been saved as Bolsa Chica Reserve.

ACTION NOW: Go to bclandtrust.org to help buy the properties.

SANTA ANA MTNS: THE PRESERVE AT SAN JUAN IS BAAAACK!
In 2008, a project for high-end luxury estates was proposed for a 580-acre inholding just off Ortega Highway, just south of El Cariso Village. That proposal fizzled, but was recently revived, slightly scaled back but otherwise little modified; see plans: ocpublicworks.com/ds/planning/projects/the_preserve_at_san_juan.

OCCNPS concurs with comment letters by Sea and Sage Audubon, Endangered Habitats League and Cal Fish and Wildlife: this project is totally inappropriate for this remote site. Its many problems start with being surrounded by dense chaparral on National Forest land and accessed only by narrow, winding, already-overburdened Ortega Highway (SR 74). The plan’s faults are fundamental and unmitigable. The site is entirely within Orange County, so project approval rests with OC Public Works and ultimately the OC Board of Supervisors. Will the plan be approved by the county? Stay tuned!

CHINO-PUENTE HILLS
See Hills For Everyone’s website, hillsforeveryone.org/category/breaking-news/, for the latest on threats posed to the hills’ open space and wildlife corridor by plans for a solar farm and water-storage dams.

—Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair

2017aug22

2017aug22
the day after

A crescent smile
an arc
a portion of a circle
a 2-dimensional sphere
a disk in the sky overhead
A crescent
reflected in visage
of those around me
in my little cul de sac
woodbridge irvine

necks craning
eyes safely masked
we stood awed &
gawked overhead &
alternately peered
inside recently vacated
cereal boxes
creatively crafted into
pin-hole cameras &
then rushed inside to view the “tele”
with views of fellow gawkers
coast to coast
for a once in a life-time event
from disk to crescent to TOTALITY & back
an event spanning 2 incredible hours
with crescent smiles
sincerely expressed
on each and every face
that smile returns
as i pen these words &
recall fond memories of
an astrophysical/humanitarian event

chuck wright

CNPS’ NEW Southern California Conservation Analyst Position
CNPS is THE voice for preservation of California’s native flora. CNPS is often the only party at the table negotiating for native plants and their places. Too often, that seat has been vacant; our capacity to take on all the important conservation battles is too often limited by available staff and volunteer time. Now, as the pace and scale of change across California increases and Federal dynamics become ever more challenging, it is even more critical to maintain a strong voice for native plant conservation. CNPS needs to increase its capacity to do so, and Southern California is the first place to start.

Recently CNPS received a generous bequest from Elizabeth C. Schwartz that provides the basis for funding a new, much-needed position: SoCal Conservation Analyst. Current funding allows the position to be long-term, but part-time—a part-time, strong consistent voice for native-plant conservation. A full-time, long-term position—a full-time strong consistent voice—will require matching the funding now in hand. The SoCal CNPS Chapters—including OCCNPS—and their members are being asked to contribute to such funding.

The Conservation Analyst will support the work of the SoCal Chapters and their conservation volunteers, helping grow their capacity to engage in important local conservation work. He or she will also allow for more engagement in strategic work when plant conservation needs span multiple CNPS Chapters: advancing CNPS conservation policies, bringing together partners, and acting as CNPS’ lead representative in regional initiatives and processes. It is important that the Analyst position be ongoing, since conservation success often requires years of dedication and persistence.

ACTION NOW: Help secure the future of plant conservation in Southern California by supporting the new SoCal Conservation Analyst position. Contribute: cnps.org/schwartz-fund. Thank you!

Your contribution will help ensure that plant science and sound conservation advocacy are at the table when conservation opportunities need someone there, consistently, to let decision-makers know the importance and uniqueness of our OC flora.
CHAPTER MEETINGS

Thursday, September 21: The Good, the Bad, and the Bugly: Beneficial Insects in the Garden
Speaker: Frederique Lavoipierre

Our gardens are full of insects! What are they and what are they all doing there? Some are welcome pollinators such as honey and native bees. Other garden allies are predators, eating the insects, mites, and other small critters that plague our plants. Meet some of the garden allies and their favorite plants, and learn how you can put these good guys to work in your garden to manage pests without pesticides. Like pollinators, many predators eat pollen and nectar, but unlike pollinators, for only part of their life cycle. There is more to it than simply growing the flowers that attract pollinating insects. Get the tips you need to plan and plant a great habitat that invites all the garden allies that can help keep your garden beautiful!

Frederique Lavoipierre is the Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, where the focus is on California native plants, and the emphasis is on two of her passions – science and horticulture. She is the author of Garden Allies, a series for Pacific Horticulture magazine, on how to create habitat that welcomes insects and other wildlife. She holds a Master’s degree in Biology from Sonoma State University, where her focus was on sustainable landscape practices and designing habitat for beneficial insects. Her research emphasis was conservation biological control. At SSU, Frederique was the founding director of the Sustainable Landscape Program, where she also developed and managed the Entomology Outreach and Garden Classroom programs. She loves giving presentations on plant/insect interactions and is not sure which she loves best: plants or insects.

Thursday, October 19: The Secrets for Designing Your Native Garden: Making Ecology Fun and Attractive
Speaker: Susan Krzywicki

In this special presentation we will use the three CNPS gardening principles, (Plant Local, Plant Light and Plant Well), and extend that strategy to give you insider landscaper tips to create year round interest, low water use, designs for keeping rainfall onsite, as well as site-specific solutions for shady sites, narrow side gardens, privacy screening between homes, in pots, and in tight spaces.

We will also take a peek at easy to combine art and plants as well as garden components for habitat and personal enjoyment.

Susan has some specific strategies you can replicate for a DIY approach. This includes how to select the number and type of species based on color theory, and the use of shape, texture and form, as well as repetition and we will show examples of well-planned garden designs based on plant communities. These formulae can be used in your gardens, either in planning a new section or editing an existing garden.

We will show photos of gardens in their prime and show garden examples for analysis. This is a talk to encourage the new gardener while inspiring the long-term native gardener.

Susan Krzywicki is a native plant landscape consultant in San Diego. She was the first paid Horticulture Program Director for the California Native Plant Society, as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee. Susan is currently on the Board of Directors for San Diego Canyonlands and is on the Port of San Diego BCDC for the Chula Vista Bayfront. She teaches native landscape design and maintenance at the local adult school for landscape professionals and homeowners.

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.

Saturday, October 14—Field Trip: Fall tour and discussion of the extensive Native Garden at Golden West College.

Conceived in the mid 1970’s, the garden really became established in the early 1990’s. The collection is one of Orange County’s best examples of the use of native plants in both ornamental and habitat-style landscapes. Dan Songster, OC CNPS Chapter President, and a founder of the Golden West College Native Garden, will be our host and guide showing both the Garden’s successes and failures. The garden features over an acre of native plants and is divided into plant communities based upon soil and water requirements, and thrives despite the predominance of heavy clay soils. For more information about the garden including directions, go to www.goldenwestcollege.edu/garden/visiting/.

Leader: Dan Songster

Meet at the garden entrance at 9AM. Due to the weekend swap meet in the parking lot nearest the garden, we will be parking at the north end of the Gothard Street Parking lot. Volunteers will walk you across the campus to the Garden itself.

Free and open to all. Physical difficulty: Easy. Plant Intensity: Moderate. Time: Approx. 2-3 hours.
Irvine Ranch Water District and Orange County Chapter CNPS present

PLAN NOW — PLANT NOW
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017, 9 AM TO 2 PM
WORKSHOP AND MINI GARDEN TOUR

9 – 10: Plant Selection Workshop with Juan Garcia
IRWD Headquarters, 15600 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, Ca, 92618. Pick up map and directions to the gardens.

10 – 2: open house at the gardens.
Visit established drought-tolerant gardens. Gather ideas for Planting Season then come to the OC CNPS plant sale at Tree of Life Nursery on October 28!
September/October 2017

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 To join or renew online go to www.cnps.org click on Join CNPS.

Name ____________________________
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Signature ____________________________
Phone # ____________________________

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Membership Team
Team Leader: Laura Camp (interim)
Outreach Coordinator: Jennifer Mably
Hospitality: Sarah Jayne
Greeters: Dori Ito, Jennifer Beatty
Volunteer Recognition: Dan Songster
Programs: Dan Songster
Audio-Visual: Bob Allen, Celia Kutcher, Bob Huttar
Conservation Team (Protect OC)
Team Lead: Celia Kutcher
Members: open

Horticulture Team (Grow Native OC)
Team Lead: Dan Songster
Plant Sale: Dan Songster, Laura Camp
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, Ron Vanderhoff

Invasives Team
Team Co-Leads: Ron Vanderhoff, Jutta Burger
Members: Bob Allen, Thea Gavlin, 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 Mably
Website: Rich Schilk

Grants Team
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