reason, the Winifred Gilman was not as sturdy as plain Cleveland Sage so we lost all of them within a year. Now, I claim the latter plant as the best aroma.

Linda Southwell—“For lovely smells in my garden, especially after a good rain, I like any of the salvias, especially White Sage, Cleveland Sage, and the sweet smell of Japayal Cleveland Sage. I have California Sagebrush (Artemisia californica) planted just inside my front gate for its welcoming aroma. Other favorites are Desert Lavender, and any of the Monardella mints (both Coyote and San Diego species).”

Rama Nayeri—“My favorite is Salvia clevelandii. I love it because it not only smells nice but you can bring the leaves indoors and put them in a vase. You can even dry the leaves and use them in the dryer.”

Laura Camp—“My very favorite is Pitcher sage, Lepechinia fragrans; I am a total sucker for that one. But there are so many and varied. The minty San Miguel Savory (rare plant from Santa Ana Mountains) and the many Monardellas are all delightful and are great garden plants. There is nothing like sage smell in the garden—my visitors always comment on Cleveland and Black sage. The smell of California!”

Leon Baginski—“Salvia spathacea, Stachys bullata and Yerba buena. So many Salvias to choose from but then again I even like Trichostema laxum (Turpentine weed)!!”

Brad Jenkins—“Favorite, as in one?! Ha ha ha... Enchanting Woolly Blue Curls smells citrus-herb to some people while having overtones of bubble-gum to others. San Miguel Savory leaves have an uplifting mint aroma for the nose and flavor as a tea. Good old cowboy cologne California Sagebrush refreshes the mood of many of us while hiking on trails (and my wife’s dog smells great after a dash through the backyard brush.) Catalina Perfume, thick leaf Yerba Santa, Monardella mints...”

Chuck Wright—“Cowboy cologne, California Sagebrush, Artemisia californica, would have to be my favorite as it would with many folks. My favorite smell would be Coastal Sage Scrub just after a rain and my favorite mystery smell would have to be California Everlastng, Pseudaugaphaliun californicum, because of the variety of responses: citrus, maple syrup, as starters, and that it changes with time on your hand.”

John Gossett—“Ribes viburnifolium, or Catalina Perfume, brings to mind a cedar chest with a fresh lemon or two stored among the keepsake blankets and quilts.”

Mike Evans—“In the wild places: Creosote. In the garden: Wooly Blue Curls.”

David Churchill—“I know it’s not pure native but my Verbina lilacina De La Mina is heavenly in the spring bloom.”

Elizabeth Wallace—“I love Myrica californica for foliage fragrance. I cut branches from and make a wreath for my front door. Their slightly spicy, woody fragrance wafts in the house when the front door opens.”

Ron Vanderhoff—“Probably overlooked by most, Salvia spathacea has an amazing foliage fragrance. It is fruity and intoxicating and is especially obvious when the plant is being watered.”

J. Mark Sugars—“Salvia apiana, White Sage. No contest.”

Sima Bernstein—“It has to be White Sage.”

Greta Helprey—“Trichostema lanatum is my absolute favorite for fragrance, but has proven a short-lived beauty in my garden. I keep trying! Meanwhile, I am still learning to make Salvia spathacea at home in shady, well-mulched corners of my garden. But Salvia clevelandii is bullet-proof and always redolent. Great in the garden in even the worst summer heat and anytime in a bouquet. Plus, I bake with it.”

Kathy Sturdevant—“hmmmm... I used to think Pozo Blue Sage, but that might have been eclipsed by Hummingbird Sage... That would be my garden plant choice. For hiking, I can’t resist the Artemisia californica.”

Mary Arambula—“Two stand out—Cleveland Sage and ‘Canyon Gray’ Artemisia.”

Alan Lindsay—“Immediately Prunus ilicifolia ssp ilicifolia popped into my mind. The crushed leaves of the Holly Leaf Cheery give off a pleasing almond-like scent”

Celia Kutcher—“All the sages & mints, especially Willowy monardella (Monardella linoidees ssp viminea).”

Dori Ito—“Number one for me is the Hummingbird sage, Salvia spathacea. If you can get past the tactile unpleasantness of its sticky leaves, you will be rewarded with the fruitiest, slightly citrusy, sweetest, most wonderful scent
The enviro community supports Prop. 68, not least because it could provide funding for purchase. Matching funding is available for some of them.

CONSERVATION

PROPOSITION 68:

This measure, on the June 5 ballot, would authorize the State of California to sell $4.1 billion in general obligation bonds to fund parks, natural resources protection, climate adaptation, water quality and supply, and flood protection. Details are in the Official Voters information Guide.

The OC enviro community supports Prop. 68, not least because it could provide funding to purchase lands and do restoration that is vital to the missions of several OC groups, including but not limited to:

1. Banning Ranch Conservancy: potentially preserve all 401 acres of Newport Banning Ranch.
2. Bolsa Chica Land Trust: finalize acquisition of the 28.2-acre Ridge and Goodell properties (a very important American heritage site), and provide funding for projects that are much-needed for sustainable habitats within Bolsa Chica.
3. Hills for Everyone: potentially, thousands of undeveloped acres along the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor are eligible for funding for purchase. Matching funding is available for some of them.
4. Laguna Greenbelt: support preservation and restoration of the 6-mile-long Coast to Cleveland Wildlife Corridor.

TRABUCO DISTRICT, 1: FUELS MANAGEMENT

The draft Decision Notice for the South Main Divide and Greater El Cariso Fuels Management Environmental Assessment (EA) was issued on April 22. There is a 45-day objection period, see https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/43960_FSPLT3_4291155.pdf.

The EA details the Trabuco Ranger District’s proposal to treat vegetation along South and North Main Divide Roads and Long Canyon Road in order to mitigate the potential effects of wildfires. The treatments will cut down or masticate most of the chaparral and limb up the larger oaks in a zone up to 300 ft. wide along the roads. North of Ortega Hwy, treatment will be done along most of the Long Cyn. Rd.-Main Divide Rd. loop. South of Ortega, treatment will be done along Main Divide Rd. from the Hwy. to the Forest boundary. The cut material will be piled, allowed to dry awhile, then chipped or burned. Herbicide will be sprayed to limit the chaparral’s regrowth.

OCCNPS has commented several times on this Fuels Management project, through its several iterations over several years. We contend that such wholesale chaparral removal opens the roadsides to increased invasion by non-native weeds, that quickly become flashy fuels that tend to burn faster than the chaparral and act as wicks to lead fire deeper into intact native vegetation. We will object, again, to this decision.

TRABUCO DISTRICT, 2: THE PRESERVE AT SAN JUAN

The OC Board of Supervisors approved this project on April 10. It calls for 72 1-acre lots for executive houses on about 80 acres of the 580-acre inholding, located just south of El Cariso Village and west of Ortega Hwy. The project proposes that the remainder of the inholding (mostly steep slopes and a canyon) will become part of District lands.

The Endangered Habitats League, Sea and Sage Audubon, and OCCNPS have all opposed this development, in its various iterations, for a decade or more. Sadly, none of us have the resources to take the next step of opposition, a lawsuit. —Celia Kutcher, Conservation Chair
Chapter Meetings

Thursday, May 17: California Public Lands, Our Incomparable Treasures
Speaker: Dr. Allan Schoenherr

California, the most populous state, has more officially designated wilderness than any state outside of Alaska. According to the California Protected Areas database, 52% is public land and 46.7% of California is classified as “protected.” We are fortunate to have within our boundaries some of the most spectacular national and state parks in the U.S.

By dividing the state into natural biotic provinces, this presentation will illustrate through a series of photographs what makes our state’s natural landscape a treasure of great value—one worth visiting, investigating, and protecting.

Dr. Schoenherr, Emeritus Professor of Ecology, taught a variety of ecology classes at Fullerton College and UC Irvine. He also taught extension courses on desert biology for UC Riverside and Cal State San Bernardino. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from USC and his doctorate from Arizona State University. He is a long-time CNPS member.

A lover of the outdoors, Dr. Schoenherr has traveled, hiked, and photographed all over the world. He is the author of the widely used reference book, A Natural History of California (UC Press, 1995) the second edition of which has just been released. He also wrote Natural History of the Islands of California (UC Press, 1999) and Wild and Beautiful: A Natural History of Open Spaces of Orange County (Laguna Wilderness Press, 2011). A limited number of copies of the 2nd edition of A Natural History of California will be available for sale and the author will sign.

Thursday, June 21: Summer Solstice, Chapter Celebration, and Watering Native Plants
Speaker: Mike Evans

Get the most out of the longest day of the year by joining us for an evening of friends and plant-related activities. Start with Rich Schilk’s annual bird walk around the preserve at 6 PM. Doors open at 6:45 for potluck refreshments. We encourage regular attendees to bring a savory or fruit dish to share. Everyone may bring family and friends. We will have a flower activity table, opportunity drawing, continuous slide show (send your great pics of chapter events to Celia Kutchker, celia552@cox.net) and other amusements.

Mike Evans of Tree of Life Nursery will highlight the evening with a talk about watering our native plants! Adapted to grow in a land that receives practically no summer water, they grow in plant communities based on soils, exposure and other environmental factors. Unless we use local native species that are perfectly suited for our site when we design and build natural gardens, we will need to judiciously apply water in the summer. Even the rough and tumble local natives will look cleaner and greener with a little irrigation. Watering native plants is quite simple, but a few classic mistakes will often result in sick plants and sad gardeners. Learn how to water right and avoid those costly mistakes. You will have healthy plants and you will be a happy gardener.

Mike Evans is president and founder of Tree of Life Nursery, which has been in business over 35 years propagating and growing approximately 400 varieties of California native plants on 40 acres near San Juan Capistrano. Mike is a great ambassador for native plants, an engaging speaker, and sincere friend of the Orange County Chapter of CNPS. Over the years he has accumulated an astounding breadth of knowledge about growing our native plants. Bring your questions and don’t miss this talk!
May/June 2018

FIRST CLASS MAIL

May/June Field Trips
For complete details, go to occnps.org/explore

Sunday, May 6 — Fossil Reef & plants of Sheep Hills, Laguna Hills
Fossil Reef is a unique 17-million-year-old preserved portion of a submerged tropical reef. The unique geology and limestone soil supports a small colony of Orange County’s only population of *Astragalus pomonensis* along with other interesting plants. This easy walk will be led by Josie Bennett and Ron Vanderhoff. See the website for time and location.

Saturday, May 12 — Wildflower Showcase, Irvine Ranch
Conservancy Seed Farm Open House
Cancelled by rain on an earlier date, this event is a great opportunity to learn about the work that OC CNPS and IRC are doing to conserve, protect, and restore native wildflowers in Orange County. IRC’s 8-acre native seed farm currently grows 45 local plant species, each providing seed used to support ecological restoration locally. Registration at letsgooutside.org/activities is required for this special event.

Sunday, May 27 — To the Top of OC: Modjeska & Santiago Peaks, Santa Ana Mountains
This day-long driving trip will seek out plant specialties unique to the higher elevations of the county. Rocky, rutted roads require high-clearance SUVs or trucks. Contact leader Ron Vanderhoff at rvanderhoff@sbcglobal.net if interested and available.

Sunday, June 3 — Temple Hill from Moulton Meadow Park
Experience a unique and rapidly disappearing coastal chaparral plant community. Go to occnps.org/explore for time and meeting place.

Sunday, June 10 — Pebble Plains and Cushenbury Canyon
These two locations in the Big Bear area offer a wealth of interesting plants. The quartzite pebble soils of Pebble Plains and Cushenbury Canyon’s rocky carbonate soils support many uncommon and rare species. A trip for early risers, leader Diane Etchison will meet participants at 6:30 AM at the Park&Ride at 2555 Tustin Avenue, Orange.

May/June 2018