



CALENDAR

While no OCCNPS events are scheduled for July and August, look forward to exciting activities as the Fall season begins in September!

NATIVE GARDENER’S 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.

The question for this newsletter is: **“With the drought conditions continuing, even our native gardens may be suffering from the**

lack of irrigation we once provided. Which native plant would you nominate for being a “survivor” of droughts where irrigation is severely reduced to conserve water?”



Linda Southwell: “For drought survival, and beauty, I nominate the Santa Cruz Island buckwheat. It has lovely flowers and structure. I have many, in different locations and all are thriving without supplemental watering.”

Ron Vanderhoff: “There are many, but California buckwheat **1** (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is a good candidate for me. I have two of the 'Dana Point' selections and they are blooming factories and very busy pollinator restaurants in my garden. Growing naturally in our summer dry coastal sage

Elizabeth Wallace; “Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) needs almost no water and provides beautiful structure in the garden. For softness, I planted Woolly Blue Curls late last May in 90 degree weather, deep-watered them twice (and not since) and they are thriving.”

Alan Lindsay: “My answer is based on the most neglected plants in my garden. They grow in locations that are hard to get to with a hose and normally don't get watered at all. They are: Mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), Coastal sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and the Island barberry (*Berberis pinnata* ssp *insularis*). Most of my Natives occur on the Northern Channel Islands and seem to be "survivors" without much water except for the Ironwood (*Lyonothamnus* sp.) needs a drink. Of course, some of these plants go dormant if not watered and so may not look healthy until the next rain.”

Brad Jenkins: “Consider Bush Poppy if looking for a single plant, either mainland *Dendromecon rigida* or island *D. harfordii* **2**. NOTE: A landscape design that help plants shade each other and the soil, (by planting in layers and somewhat close together) can help a garden get through the dry times. For the high layer use Lemonade Berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) or Sugar Bush (*R. ovata*), or maybe Hollyleaf Cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*). Below that use buckwheats **1** such as Ashy Leaf (*Eriogonum cinereum*) or California (*E. fasciculatum*). Water well the first year so they can establish healthy root systems that will be drought tolerant in later years.”

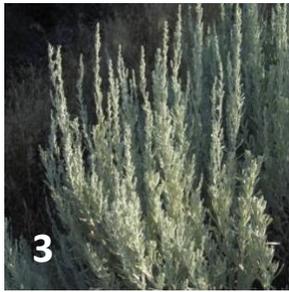


Leon Baginski; “Buckwheat **1** is a champion of drought. Flowers with or without water and is the preferred food source for several species of butterflies and moths. It’s a real workhorse in the water restricted world!”

Mark Sugars; “You could say that every native plant species in Orange County is a ‘survivor’ not only of droughts, but of mega-droughts, by necessity, but let me put it this way.... If I had a big yard full of native plants,

and all of a sudden it became impossible or illegal to irrigate them artificially, I would be very glad and relieved (based on my own experience) if they were one of the following:

Arctostaphylos glauca, *Ceanothus spinosus*, *Dudleya* spp. Especially *D. pulverulenta*, *D. edulis* and *D. viscida*, *Eriogonum fasciculatum*, *Hesperoyucca whipplei*, *Nolina cismontane*, *Peritoma arborea*, *Quercus agrifolia*, *Rhus integrifolia*.”



Dan Songster-“Tough as nails and great summer bloomers too, consider those heat-loving natives in the Asteraceae family which are also great pollinator magnets. We have the gumplants (*Grindelia camporum*, and *G. hirsutula*); saw toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*); and Menzies' goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) just to name a few. Let’s also remember silvery California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and the versatile great basin sage **3** (*Artemisia tridentata*). Both are durable, attractive, and fragrant.”

Our Question for the Next Newsletter: “Do you grow any veggies or fruit trees near/with your natives? Do you find it a good mix or are there drawbacks?”

Email your responses to Dan Songster at songster@cox.net. Please attempt to keep replies brief so we can include most of the responses!

DID YOU KNOW that you can buy quality California native plants at Green Thumb Nursery in Lake Forest, Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar, and Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano?

Art and Botany: Illustrations, Paintings, and Drawings of California Native Plants

—Dan Songster

I was on a hike with chapter member Chuck Wright, who asked if I was familiar the wonderful plant drawings of **Stella Ross-Craig**. I wasn’t, but once at home, I looked her up. Her work, promoted by Kew Gardens and other organizations, is extensive! She illustrated 31 volumes on the native plants of Britain. A Fellow of the Linnaean Society, she was awarded the Kew International Medal, the Royal Horticultural Society’s Gold Veitch Memorial Medal-and many other noteworthy accolades. Stella died in 2006, just a couple of weeks short of her 100th birthday, surely the true First Lady of British botanical illustration.



CHAPARRAL PEA—*Zylispermis montana*.
Margaret Warriner Buck

Looking through snatches of Ross-Craig’s works made me think about the many comparable botanical artists we have in California. Here are a few that come to mind:

Margaret Warriner Buck illustrated Mary Parson’s *Wild Flowers of California* in 1897. Artful and accurate, these illustrations are my all-time favorites. Glenn Keator used them in his *Complete Garden Guide to Native Perennials of California* published in 1990 by Chronical Books.

Margaret Armstrong, best known as the designer of 270 book covers in the Art Nouveau style, applied those considerable skills to her illustrations for *Field Book of Western Wildflowers* published in 1915. Later on, she wrote three successful mystery novels!



Margaret Armstrong

Edith Clements was an accomplished botanist and artist. Among her many works was a guide to western wildflowers commissioned by The National Geographic Society and published in the May 1927 edition “...with 206 Illustrations in Full Color, Edith S. Clements.” The article was published in book form the following year in *Flowers of Coast and Sierra*.



Manzanita

Paul Landacre was a self-taught printmaker whose mastery of woodblock printing earned him national recognition. His illustrations in *Natural History of Western Trees* (1953), ink drawings on scratchboard, give the feel of woodblocks. It is such a fun book anyway, but Mr. Landacre's illustrations make opening the book especially rewarding.

Edmund C. Jaeger's book *Desert Wild Flowers* (1940) was not only written by Mr. Jaeger (The Dean of the Desert) but all the line drawings are his!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Jaeger

Henry R. Mockel's *desert flower notebook* is a compendium of desert species, intentionally non-technical, but full of solid information, and charmingly illustrated by the author. <https://www.californiadesertart.com/henry-mockel-the-philosopher-of-flowers/>

Gene Bauer's hand-printed serigraphs in *Botanical Serigraphs: The Gene Bauer Collection* can't be beat. In an old almost woodblock style, she plays with layers of

color on the plants, many of which are native. Her editor read an article of mine on pruning and sent me a book of her work in appreciation. Score! <http://downloads2.esri.com/ESRIpress/images/167/sample.pdf>

Kristin Jakobs might be best known to some of us for her grass posters for CNPS, but her illustrations in *Wild Lilies, Irises, and Grasses—Gardening with California Monocots*, a book I consider a must for any native gardener's library, are superb. She has done much more; look her up! <http://www.kristinjakob.com/>

Linda Ann Vorobik is the principal illustrator for The Jepson Manual. She also illustrated *A Flora of Santa Cruz Island*. But I must turn away from the strictly black and white world of line drawing to mention her detailed paintings and silk scarves that often carry botanical themes. She has moved to the state of Washington but continues her fine work. <http://www.vorobikbotanicalart.com/>

Fred Roberts also works with both line drawings and paintings. Known for his illustrations found on greeting cards and tee shirts (I own several) he also illustrated both *The Vascular Plants of Orange County, California* and *The Vascular Plants of Western Riverside County, California*. Descriptions of these two publications plus other artwork and his famous tee shirts can be found at <https://fmrpublications.com/>

John Muir Laws is a fine artist and teacher. His website includes instruction in art and journaling in an effort to engage the younger generation toward becoming tomorrow's naturalists. Visit <https://johnmuirlaws.com/drawing-plants> and be inspired!

Mary Ann Showers, a retired CDFW botanist created a wonderful series of 210 detailed line drawings titled, "Illustrations of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered California Plant Species." See all of these online at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Plants/Line-Drawings>

Deborah Shaw, whose garden was on our tour in 2011, is widely recognized as an innovative botanical illustrator. <https://asba-art.org/article/deborah-shaw>

DID YOU KNOW that you can cut California poppies to the ground after they seed, and they might bloom again a second time?

IN BRIEF—November 7 through November 12 at TOLN—Sage Week and the launch of *A Sage in Every Garden* giveaway featuring four-inch pots of White Sage (*Salvia apiana*) and Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*). Stay tuned for more details and to see how you can help.

Would you like to show off your native plant garden? The Garden Tour will be back in Spring of 2023! Contact the Garden Tour committee at gardentour@cnps.org.