Upcoming events

August 13 & August 17: Volunteer at UCI Herbarium

September 21: Chapter Meeting

November: Next field trip with Ron Vanderhoff

August 13 & August 17

Volunteer Plant Mounting Sessions Cont...

Join us in August at UCI Herbarium. Help Rebecca Crowe, the Collections Manager, and fellow volunteers, as we continue the preparation of the herbarium specimens from the Whiting Ranch and Caspers Wilderness Parks vascular plant checklist projects.

Contact rcrowe@uci.edu to sign up.

Open sessions:

- Sunday, August 13 10-12:30pm
- Thursday, August 17 1:30-3:30pm & 4-6pm
- Volunteer sessions will continue into the fall, details soon to come.

Image by R.Crowe
Thursday, September 21

Chapter Meeting - In-person

Mark your calendars for this chapter meeting with speaker Chris Cosma at Clifton Community Center in Tustin. He will be discussing moth pollination of native plants.

Past, Present, & Future

Insights from Board Members

This is the third in an ongoing series of interviews with board members serving on the Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (OCCNPS).

Guest feature editor Thea Gavin interviewed Gabe Verduzco - gardener, botanical enthusiast, ISA-certified arborist, plant scientist, and surfer.

“I just loved being outdoors, but particularly in nature. Even when I was playing baseball as a kid, I would be standing out there, not paying attention to the game but looking at the butterflies.”

Read his engaging story here.  

Native Gardener's Corner Member's Tips, Tricks, and Techniques

Guest Author Dan Songster offers chapter members and local experts a chance to share information related to gardening with natives.

August/September Question:  "Which native tree would be your favorite to plant in an average-sized Orange County home landscape?"

Amy Litton- “Hands down – Cercis occidentalis aka Western Redbud. The blooms emerge before the heart-shaped leaves, creating an incredibly beautiful effect. Ours has understory species such as Ribes speciosum (Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry), and the combination creates incredible habitat for a variety of bird species and pollinators. The shade in the summer is wonderful too!”
Read more Tips, Tricks and, Techniques here.

Our question for October/November: “After the tremendous crop of weeds from last season's rains, what tricks and techniques do you now recommend for efficient weeding in your native garden?”

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

Western Redbud Image by D. Songster

Join Our Team

Do you love gardens that are created with California native plants?

We are searching for a new team lead for the Garden Tour Committee. The California in My Garden tour usually takes place in April and we hope to start planning soon.

Would you like to help lead a capable committee of individuals who can provide support for the 2024 garden tour? If so, contact OrangeCounty@cnps.org.

Image by T.Grinidad of Trude Hurd garden

Acorn Grant

Did you know that OCCNPS gives away up to $500 to support Orange County public schools that have plans to install a garden with California native plants?

It's easy to apply for the grant. Click here for more info.

Let us help you plant an educational garden for children.

Image of Santiago Steam School 2022 recipient

Why join OCCNPS?

When you join OCCNPS, you support valuable scientific surveys, rare plant monitoring and conservation, invasive plant science and education, environmental education, garden tours, and
grants for schools and students. Being a member of OCCNPS helps make gardening with native plants possible.