



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

March 13, 2007 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica

Relict California Grasslands

Speaker: Dr. Polly Schiffman, CSUN
Management and restoration of California's degraded and heavily invaded grasslands depend upon our ability to understand historical native species compositions. For years botanists and ecologists have been fixated upon a few perennial bunchgrasses and non-native invaders. This has distracted us from fully recognizing the remarkable array of compositionally diverse and regionally distinctive grasslands that still exist in California. Dr. Schiffman will discuss the surprising results of her study of thirteen relict grasslands located throughout California.

April 10, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center
Encino

Plant Identification Workshop

Led by CNPS Chapter Members
Come and learn about our local native plants! Tables will display various species and families of native plants (and weeds) with CNPS members available to discuss identifying characteristics of the plants. Bring your native plant samples for identification! Samples must include leaves and flowers or fruit. In the case of grasses, bring the whole stem: leaves, flowers and seeds

Mark Your Calendar: May 8 Program in Santa Monica will feature Rosi Dagit speaking about turtles' place in our local native habitat.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Calendar of Events on page 3.

President's Message

'Tis spring (or nearly), and the CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter is planning some fun events to celebrate the season. On Saturday March 24, we will have our annual members hike and picnic. As we have done in the past two years, we will start on the Salvation Army property in the Santa Monica Mountains (see the calendar section for details). However, in order to plan for our often unpredictable weather, we have decided to be flexible and plan our hike around whatever spring gives us. If the weather brings more rain, we will have a fungus foray through the oak woodlands of this wilderness park with leader Florence Nishida. If conditions prove more arid, we will hike from the Salvation Army camp into Malibu Creek State Park looking for wildflowers through chaparral, oak woodlands, and grasslands. In any event, we will finish with a wonderful lunch provided by the Chapter. Whatever the weather brings this event will be a delightful chance to see our wild lands in their spring glory.

Our annual Wildflower Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 7 & 8 at Malibu Bluffs Park (see calendar for details). Our Chapter volunteers will again put together a breath-taking display of spring wildflowers gathered from private and public gardens. California native plants will be available for sale along with books, posters, and artwork. We will also offer hikes through the Malibu Bluffs Park down to the ocean. Due to the fire at the Bluffs Park, we will have a chance to experience the post burn recovery of our native vegetation and see fire following wildflowers in bloom. In the past, we have seen dolphins, whales, snakes, birds, and butterflies as well as the wonderful native plants on these adventures. The hikes will be led by experienced volunteers each day at 1 pm. Please join us. If you have time to help with organizing and staffing the event, please give me a call or drop me an email.

On a more serious note I want to make you aware that Newhall Ranch is continuing to move forward with their plans to turn thousands of acres of natural habitat into a new city along the Santa Clara River just east of the Ventura County line. The Landmark Village development, along State Route 126 and the river, would result in 1,444 new housing units, about 1,033,000 square feet of mixed-use/commercial uses, and related facilities. This will be built on 292.6 acres, mostly between SR126 and the river, with another 750.9 acres of natural habitat destroyed to find dirt to fill the river floodplain, widen SR126, and build connecting roads to make way for much more development in the near future.

continued on back page

Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days

Volunteers are invited to an interesting day or a full weekend while helping to improve trails during the 25th annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days on April 27-29, 2007 (Friday through Sunday). The rare opportunity of camping under the sycamores and oaks at Danielson in the heart of Point Mugu State Park is free to volunteers on Friday and Saturday nights. Volunteers may also enjoy a free barbeque dinner on Saturday evening. Trail users have the opportunity to build and restore the trails that they and others enjoy.

Held only once a year, Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days is organized by a committee of citizens who love trails and is partnered by California State Parks, Sierra Club, Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, California Native Plant Society and other groups. Experience in trail building is not required and there are jobs for everyone no matter what their ability. Along with trail work, a special crew will restore native plants. Bring your own lunches, snacks and water. Tools and Saturday evening dinner will be provided.

For more information and for camping reservations, call the SMM Trails Council, (818) 222-4531.

LA Environmental Education Fair

The Arboretum of Los Angeles County,
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California 91007

Sat., March 10 9am-4pm and Sun., March 11, 12pm-4pm

The admission fees for the Arboretum are \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors (62 and over), \$5 for students with ID, \$2.50 for children 5-12, children under 5 are admitted FREE! Activities include exhibits, displays, interactive events, live entertainment and an ecological treasure hunt.

For more info visit <http://www.laeef.org/>

Wildland Weeds Control Techniques: Southern California

Paramount Ranch
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
March 21, 2007, 8:00AM-5:00PM

Course Description: Cal-IPC control courses provide practical demonstrations of weed control methods, taught by invasive weed experts with years of on-the-ground experience. Courses focus on locally important weeds and relevant control strategies, and cover a spectrum of techniques including mechanical, chemical, and cultural controls, revegetation and propagation. Registration is \$125 for Cal-IPC members and \$145 for non-members. Register on-line at www.cal-ipc.org.

California Native Grassland Association

CNGA annual Conference. Save the Dates!!!
May 17-20, 2007 in Santa Barbara.

New CNPS Legacy and Donor Circles

Brochures are available for CNPS Planned Giving. Please consider naming CNPS in your will or estate plan. CNPS has a new Planned Giving Program that can help you plan a Legacy gift that will benefit California's native flora for future generations. You can contact Amanda Jorgenson, Executive Director, at the CNPS office for more information, at (916) 447-2677. Legacy Circle members receive special acknowledgments and invitations to an annual dinner and special field trip. These benefits are also available to our new Donor Circle, made up of members who have donated \$25,000 or more to CNPS. Your gift today can help CNPS be a strong advocate for science and conservation in the years to come.

Whale Festival March 11

On Sunday, March 11, 2007 from 9am - 4pm, the 11th Annual Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival will be at Sycamore Cove in Point Mugu State Park. This event celebrates the annual migration of the gray whale and its successful return from the brink of extinction. Whale appreciation and marine awareness are the themes of the day. Live entertainment, marine conservation information booths, whale-watching stations, arts and crafts for children, activities, music and food are all a part of the day's events. Experienced naturalists at last year's festival helped participants view and identify several gray whales and a large pod of bottlenose dolphin right from the beach!

No admission fee will be charged. However, there is a \$10 day-use parking fee to park in the lots at Sycamore Canyon and at Leo Carrillo State Park. The event will be held at Sycamore Cove, only 5 miles north of Ventura/Los Angeles county line on Pacific Coast Highway. Free shuttle service is available from the parking lots at Mugu Beach (5 miles north of Sycamore Cove on PCH) and at Leo Carrillo State Park (6 miles south of Sycamore Cove on PCH.)

The event is partially accessible with a limited number of sand wheelchairs available to be checked out. The event is sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Natural History Association and the Ventura County Star. For more information, call (805) 488-1827.

Theodore Payne Foundation Events

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley 91352 - (818) 768-1802

Theodore Payne 4th Annual Native Plant Garden Tour, on April 28 & 29 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day is a self-guided journey through some of the most beautiful, beneficial and sustainable Los Angeles-area gardens containing at least 50% California native plants. This year TPF is presenting 13 gardens that are new to the tour and 16 that are returning. Each one is unique, inspiring and educational. On the evening of Saturday, April 28, all ticket holders will be treated to a free lecture on host plants for butterflies by Chris and Trish Meyer of Wildscaping.com. Location is to be announced. \$20 per person. Purchase tickets at www.theodorepayne.org.

Wildflower Show

April 7–8, 2007

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 10am–4pm

*Wildflower Displays & Native Plants for Sale
Books, Posters, and more...*

*Wildflower Walks
at 1:00pm daily.*

**FREE ADMISSION
AND PARKING**

© 2005 Melanie Symonds
mjsymonds@yahoo.com

MALIBU BLUFFS PARK

PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY AT MALIBU CANYON ROAD

*Presented by California Native Plant Society, City of Malibu Parks & Recreation Department,
and Charmlee Docents. More information: 310/317-1364.*

CNPS Wildflower Show Coordinator: Snowy Dodson, 818/782-9346. Email: snowy.dodson@csun.edu

PROGRAMS**TUES 3/13 7:30-9:30pm***First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*

Relict California

Grasslands

Speaker: Dr. Polly Schiffman, CSUN

Directions: The First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica CA 90403, is one and a half blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard on 11th Street in Santa Monica. From the 10 freeway, exit at Lincoln. Go right, or north to Wilshire. Turn right. In three blocks turn left on 11th Street. The church is on the left, just past California. Church parking is on the right under an apartment complex. The Fireside Room is at the north end of the church's large patio, next to the Sanctuary. Native plant and gardening books will be for sale and refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

TUES 4/10 7:30-9:30pm*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*Plant Identification
Workshop

Directions: the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino, is on the north side of Magnolia between Balboa & Hayvenhurst. Park in the lighted lot at the east end of the garden, walk west along the path to the garden center building. Native plant and gardening books will be for sale and refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00pm at Chevy's Mexican Restaurant in Encino (16705 Ventura Blvd.)

For information about the above programs, please see "Upcoming Programs" on front page.

CNPS Statewide Chapter
Council meeting and
Banquet

Saturday - March 10

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

8:30am til 9pm

1500 North College Avenue, Claremont

This all-day meeting will cover topics including rare plants, horticulture, weed control policies and more. After-dinner speaker is Richard Halsey, speaking on "The Wisdom of the Chaparral." Field trips are scheduled for Sunday. For details visit www.cnps.org

BOARD MEETINGS**TUES 3/6 7pm**

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Jo Kitz. Chapter members are invited. 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills. (818) 348-5910

TUES 4/3 7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Snowdy Dodson. Chapter members are invited. 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys (818) 782-9346

HIKES AND RESTORATION**SUN 3/11 9am-1pm***Malibu Creek State Park*

Arbor Day / Habitat Restoration: "Pull" weeds and "Plant" oaks. We will work in one of the many new oak groves that have been planted by volunteers over the last 10 years and we will plant trees. Bring lunch, water, and gloves; tools provided. Co-sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust. Reservations required (818) 591-1701 x203.

THURS 3/15 8:30am*Caballero Canyon, Tarzana*

Chaparral Chatter has moved and will explore the trails and byways of the valley's entrance into Topanga State Park. Winter rains bring a flush of green and early spring blooms (mountain lilacs and currants) add color to the canyon. Bring water and snack. Meet at the lower trailhead on Reseda Blvd., 1.9 miles south of Ventura Fwy just past the fountains on the left side. 3hrs. (818) 345-6749.

THURS 3/22 10am*Cold Creek Preserve*

Cold Creek Meanderings Pass under oak canopies, through mountain lilac tunnels and across open meadows for 3 to 5 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Lower Stunt High Trailhead 1 mile from Mulholland Highway on Stunt Road. 3 hrs. (818) 348-5910.

SAT 3/24 9:30am-1pm*Salvation Army Camp*

Members Hike and Picnic Meet behind Tapia Park on Las Virgenes Road near intersection with Piuma Road. See below for details. Call (818) 782-9346 for more info.

SUN 3/25 9:30am*Solstice Canyon*

Canyon Caper Follow a beautiful streamside trail under a canopy of oaks and alders to a waterfall. Stop at the burned-out ruins of Tropical Terrace, bring lunch and water, 3-mile return. From Pacific Coast Highway, turn inland on Corral Canyon Road. Drive 0.25 mile to park entrance. 3 hrs. (818) 348-5910.

SUN 4/1 9am-1pm*La Sierra Preserve*

Weed War Meet at Peter Strauss Ranch. Call to confirm location (818) 348-5910

SAT & SUN 4/7 & 4/8 1pm daily*Malibu Bluffs Park*

Wildflower Walk In conjunction with our Wildflower Show, chapter members will provide a 2-hour guided walk to look at the spring and post-burn wildflowers.

THURS 4/12 8:30am*Caballero Canyon, Tarzana*

Chaparral Chatter See 3/15 write-up.

THURS 4/26 10am-1pm*Lower Stunt High Trailhead*

Secret Trail Pass under oak canopies, through mountain lilac tunnels and across open meadows for 3 to 5 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Lower Stunt High Trailhead 1 mile from Mulholland Highway on Stunt Road. (818) 348-5910.

SUN 4/29 9:30am*Solstice Canyon*

Canyon Caper See 3/25 write-up above.

Chapter Members' Hike and Picnic Saturday, March 24, 9:30am (back of Tapia Park)

Fungus or Flowers, that is the question. The annual chapter picnic will accommodate whatever spring has given us. Florence Nishida will be our fungus leader, again, if the weather is conducive to fungal growth (wet, then warm). Without Florence, we'll find wildflowers on the high road across a north-facing slope, then walk along Malibu Creek into the state park, passing the Mott Adobe and the visitor center before returning for our lunch at the wilderness camp, the site of our two previous chapter picnics. This walk will take us through chaparral, oak woodlands, grasslands, and past the CNPS Commemorative Oak Grove that was once the site for 20th Century Fox's heavy equipment storage before it was acquired by state parks. The entrance to the park is near the intersection of Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon and Piuma Roads. No entry/parking fee. Tell park aide at the Tapia Park entry gate that you are going to the Salvation Army Camp. However, if you are late, you will need to pay the state park's parking fee and then find a way into the camp and hope you can find us. Bring water and snacks if you will get hungry before lunch is served.

Wildflower Show and Wildflower Walks Saturday & Sunday, April 7 & 8, 10am-4pm, Malibu Bluffs Park

Native wildflowers from botanical and home gardens on display. Plants, books, posters and more for sale. Members of the California Native Plant Society will provide a 2-hour guided walk to look at the spring and post-burn wildflowers on Bluffs Park at 1 pm each day. Sponsored also by City of Malibu, Charmlee Wilderness Park and the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Location: Pacific Coast Hwy at Malibu Canyon Road. Call or email Snowdy Dodson for further information or to volunteer some time at the Show: (818)782-9346 or snowdy.dodson@csun.edu



LOS ANGELES · SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
 15811 Leadwell Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Van Nuys, CA
 PERMIT Number 622

LA/SMM Chapter is selling *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens* at its upcoming Wildflower Show and at its public programs. The book is also available from the State CNPS website, Theodore Payne Foundation, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and from Dutton's Brentwood Bookstore.

TIME VALUE

Presidents Message Continued

(from front page)

CNPS is joining forces with the Friends of the Santa Clara River to provide detailed comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Landmark Village project (see <http://planning.lacounty.gov/spLandmark.htm> for the draft EIR). To be truly effective, the Friends are hiring experts to prepare detailed comments to be put in the record, an absolutely necessary step in the environmental review process. The CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains and Channel Islands Chapters are contributing dollars to ensure adequate review. Our Chapter funds are limited and any financial assistance you can provide would be much appreciated and be put to good use. Send donations to CNPS c/o Steve Hartman, CNPS Treasurer, 6117 Reseda Blvd., Suite H, Reseda, CA 91335.

– by Snowdy Dodson

Comments on LA River Projects due by March 19

The Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIR/PEIS) has been released (see: www.lariver.org). Comments may be submitted by writing to:

Carol Armstrong, LARRMP Project Manager
 1149 S. Broadway, Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90015

Please note whether comments are intended for the LARRMP or for the PEIR/PEIS. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail, as follows: For the LARRMP, write to: engrplan@lacity.org; and for the PEIR/PEIS, write to: engrpeirs@lacity.org

For more information, please call Mary Brooks at 323-669-7653.

SUBSCRIBER NOTE: Above your name on the address label is a 4-digit number that indicates the month that your subscription/membership must be renewed. Example: 0710=October 2007. If your subscription has expired, your label will be color-coded: Green – Please Renew. Red – Last Issue. *Check your label for your month! THANKS*

CHAPTER RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERSHIPS
 Send check to David Hollombe, 6223 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048 or to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Current CNPS memberships are:
 Student, Limited Income \$25,
 Individual \$45,
 Family, Group or Library \$75.
Make checks payable to CNPS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TOYON ONLY. For members of other CNPS chapters, send \$5 to David Hollombe.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Write or phone David Hollombe (323) 934-0332. Include your e-mail address. Be sure to notify State CNPS Office, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Toyon

VOLUME 27 Number 2
 MARCH – APRIL 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Front Page
 March and April Programs
 President's Message

Page 2
 Announcements

Page 3
 Calendar of Chapter
 Activities,
 Garden Tour

Chapter Message Phone: (818) 881-3706
 Chapter Website: www.lacnps.org
 Chapter email: lacnps@lacnps.org

See www.lacnps.org for chapter officers.