



President's Message

By Snowy Dodson

Our CNPS LA/SMM Chapter Wildflower Show on April 11 & 12, 2009 attracted crowds of visitors to Malibu Bluffs Park. The spring weather and lovely blooms were the featured attractions of the weekend. Thanks to all of you who made the event possible by viewing the cut wildflower displays, buying books, posters, plants & paintings, and by taking one of the wildflower hikes along the Bluffs and down to the ocean. Our lovely display of California native flowers reflected the beauty of our local ecology. Plant specimens came from Theodore Payne Foundation and Cold Creek Preserve as well as from the private gardens of Steve & Leslie Hartman, Doug Allan, Florence Nishida, Nurit Whitney, Betsey Landis, and yours truly. We wish to thank all individuals and institutions that either contributed or gathered flowers for this year's crowd-pleasing display.

For our gardening enthusiasts, we had California Native Plants for sale, and CNPS members, Christine Walker, Cynthia Jackson, Dorothy Walker, Sheila Bjornlie and Sid Mendel, provided knowledgeable plant sales advice. Our CNPS Chapter thanks Bob Sussman and his Matilija Nursery (www.matilijanursery.com) for the high-quality native plants. Sandy Glover and Pong Apinyavat displayed and sold their lovely paintings of our coastal landscape. Olga Hammer and Jo Kitz staffed the CNPS Chapter book store with numerous new titles.

Wildflower Show Co-Chairs Sheila Bjornlie and I would like to thank all the dedicated CNPS volunteers who made our 2009 event a success. It seems to take a small village of Chapter members to make this event happen, and here they are in alphabetical order: Doug Allen, hike leader; Harvey Bjornlie, plant sale pickup and delivery; Sheila Braden, and the National Park Service, maps & information; Henry Carleton, clean up; Brendan Clarke, hike leader; David Ecklund, set up, clean up; Donna Ellis, plant gathering, set up; Olga Hammer, book sales, set up, clean up; David Hollombe, plant labels, wildflower walk assistance, & cleanup; Cynthia Jackson, plant sale, clean up; Jo Kitz, set up, book sales, hike leader, clean up; Betsey Landis, set up, clean up; Halli Mason, set up, clean up, hike leader; Sid Mendel, set up, clean up, plant sales; Florence Nishida, set up; Mike O'Brien, clean up; Kurt Rademacher, set up, clean up; Sharon Thomas, set up; Christine Walker, set up, clean up, plant sale, Dorothy Walker, clean up, plant sales; Nurit Whitney, set up; Bill Yuan, canteen & photography; Henrietta Yuan, canteen. And last but not least, we thank the City of Malibu, Parks and Recreation Dept. for the venue and support staff.

One of the consequences of staging an event such as our annual Wildflower Show or Plant Sale is that we foster a sense of community and connectedness that is so often lacking in our urban lives. Although these programs can require a lot of work and may be tiring, I always come away with a sense of renewal and purpose. So put the October 3 & 4, 2009 Plant Sale at the Sepulveda Garden Center on your calendars, get your gardens or containers ready over the summer, and come out to buy plants and/or volunteer some time to help with staffing. See you soon.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

May 12, 2009 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

How to Convert Your Yard into a Native Plant Paradise

Presenter: Barbara Eisenstein, Garden Consultant

Barbara Eisenstein has been the voice and native plant expert on the horticulture information phone line and hortinfo@rsabg.org e-mail at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for several years. She initiated and leads a community program, Friends of the Nature Park, in South Pasadena. Her home garden adventures in native plant gardening are posted on her blog: Wild Suburbia (www.wildsuburbia.blogspot.com). She will discuss the newest sources of native plant gardening information on the web -- blogs, readers and the like. Bring your garden questions! Barbara will answer them or tell you where the answer can be found!

June 9, 2009 – 7:30 - 9:00pm
First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica

Healing with Medicinal California Plants

Presenter: Cecilia Garcia and Dr. Jim Adams

Cecilia Garcia and Jim Adams will give a presentation on using California plants in your health care. Cecilia is a Chumash healer who was educated in healing by her grandparents, who were Chumash healers. Cecilia has given many presentations on healing with California plants and is working hard to keep Chumash healing alive. Jim Adams is an associate professor in the USC School of Pharmacy. Jim has over 170 publications and has been working on California plant medicine for many years. Cecilia has been Jim's teacher for 10 years. Together they have written a book, many articles for medical journals and popular magazines, have been interviewed on the radio and have given many workshops on healing with California plants. There is an online edition of their book (\$15) at www.abeduspress.com. A second edition of the book (\$14.95) is being printed now and should be available in the next few months. Their presentation at CNPS will focus on plant specimens they will bring. Their presentation will be very informative and engaging.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAVE LA RIVER OPEN SPACE

The organization that was formerly known as "Save Studio City Golf and Tennis" has re-energized their effort to protect that open space with a new website: www.SaveLARiverOpenSpace.org

You can now go there to see:

1. LA River Natural Park Vision/Concept - an "alternate vision" for the property
2. The owner/developer's proposed development plan for the site -currently on file with the LA City Planning Dept
3. History of the site
4. Photos of other LA River friendly parks
5. All about the non-profit organization - Save LA River Open Space (formerly known as Save Studio City Golf and Tennis), and how they got to this point
6. Find out how you can help
7. Find out how to donate online

Please go to their website, click on all the "pages" and on all the links to take the full tour! Their new email address is saveopensespace@SLAROS.org

LOS ANGELES RIVER IMPROVEMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT

The River Improvement Overlay (RIO) and Los Angeles River Improvement Overlay District (LA-RIO) ordinances were unanimously approved by the City Planning Commission on February 12, 2009. For a copy of the LA-RIO, please visit : http://cityplanning.lacity.org/Code_Studies/RIOproject/TOCRIO.pdf (Please note that the table of contents link to each Section) For more information please contact: Deborah Kahen at 213-978-1395 or deborah.kahen@lacity.org

SUSTAINABLE SITES INITIATIVE

In 2003, the City of Santa Monica initiated a project designed to encourage city residents and the local landscaping community to adopt sustainable garden practices. The city wished to promote practices that would, among other things, conserve water and energy, reduce waste and also decrease urban runoff, the single largest source of pollution in Santa Monica Bay. Although the city had been providing seminars and tours of local sustainable landscapes, as well as a large demonstration garden at City Hall, most residents were not moved to alter their gardening practices. Similarly, members of the landscaping community were still inclined to continue recommending and installing the traditional kinds of non-native plants with which they were most familiar. The City of Santa Monica's challenge was to persuade both homeowners and landscape professionals that sustainable gardening was not only better for the environment than traditional gardening, but also attractive and made good economic sense. To prove their case, the city created two gardens in adjacent residential front yards, one landscaped in the traditional manner and the other with a climate-appropriate, sustainable design, allowing residents to make a direct comparison. Using this model, the city has since awarded 51 Sustainable Landscape Grants for properties including single-family homes, multi-family buildings, and two schools. Sustainable landscape principles have been taught to more than a hundred residents and more than 120 landscape professionals since 2004. For more information visit their website at: <http://www.sustainablesites.org/cases/show.php?id=1>

UPCOMING EVENTS

GARDEN SHOW AT RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS LONG BEACH, MAY 2 & 3

Landscape Legacies – from California Native Plants to Mediterranean Influences – A Garden Show and Celebration This even showcases participating public parks & gardens, historic sites, and conservancy organizations. www.rancholosalamitos.com

LA RIVER CLEANUP MAY 9

FOLAR'S 20th Anniversary of the Annual Great LA River Cleanup La Gran Limpieza will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009, 9:00 am to noon. See the Friends Of the Los Angeles River website for locations and signup: www.folar.org click on "cleanup" at the top of the web page.

RARE PLANTS OF COASTAL SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY WORKSHOP MAY 29 & 30

The California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Game present Rare Plants of Coastal San Luis Obispo County a workshop taught by Dr. David Keil, Deborah Hillyard, and Kevin Merk - May 29 & 30, 2009, San Luis Obispo. Contact Josie Crawford, Education Program Director, California Native Plant Society, 2707 K ST, Ste1 Sacramento, CA 95816-5113, (916) 447-2677 for registration or go to <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/> for a course description.

SUMMER SOJOURN, JULY 17-19

The Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will host its second Sierra Summer Sojourn, a weekend of field trips, programs and conversation on July 17-19, at White Mountain Research Station Crooked Creek facility. A choice of four field trips on Saturday and on Sunday focusing on native blooms, bristlecones, butterflies, and alpine ecology will be offered, along with two evening programs on alpine ecology and the bristlecones. There is an option to spend one or two nights at the Crooked Creek facility, located in the bristlecones at 10,200 ft. More information about the weekend and a registration form can be found on the Bristlecone Chapter website at www.bristleconecnps.org. Please join us for a fun- and flower-filled weekend. Early registration is advised.

CNPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIKES THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

The Society's new Executive Director, Tara Hansen, visited with the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter Board members prior to the March 13-14 Chapter Council meeting. She was accompanied by CNPS Rare Plant Botanist, Nick Jensen. CNPS fellows and Chapter Board members, Jo Kitz, Halli Mason, and Steve Hartman together with Chapter President, Snowdy Dodson, and Chapter Membership Chair, David Hollombe took Tara and Nick on a tour of the restored creek bed at Headwaters Corner which is the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) headquarters. The tour was followed by hikes through the MRT Cold Creek property and Solstice Canyon to view the terrain and emerging wildflowers.

PROGRAMS

TUES 5/12 7:30-9:30pm*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino***How to Convert
Your Yard Into A
Native Plant Paradise**

Presenter: Barbara Eisenstein

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 Tony Roma's Restaurant, 16575 Ventura Blvd., Encino. (818-461-8400)

TUES 6/9 7:30-9:00pm*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica***Healing With Medicinal
California Plants**

Presenters: Cecilia Garcia and Dr. Jim Adams

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.

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

BOARD MEETINGS

TUES 5/5 7pm**LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting**

at the home of Snowdy Dodson, 15811 Leadwell Street, Van Nuys Chapter members are invited! 818-782-9346

TUES 6/2 7pm

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

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SUN 5/3 8:45am*Malibu Creek State Park*

Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands Today we join "Big Sunday" to continue habitat rebuilding with oak trees and native bunch grasses along Las Virgenes and Malibu Creeks. Your help is needed to continue these vital habitat restoration works so the birds and animals of Malibu Creek State Park will survive. Credit for community service.

Reservations required. 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SUN 5/10 8:45am*Santa Monica Mountains*

Weed War for Mother Nature Engage non-native invasive plant species (weed) where a native plant community is most threatened along a trail, by a stream, in a grassland. Call 818-591-1701 x203 or email volunteer@treepeople.org. Site TBA. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 3.5hrs *

SAT 5/16 8:45am*Topanga State Park*

Lower Topanga Park Restoration: Topanga Creek returned to its historic channel in 2008. In 2009, creek-side native vegetation will be planted, watered and weeded to vanquish non-native invasive plants (weeds). Bring, water, snack, sturdy footwear. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SUN 5/17 8:45am*Cold Creek Preserve*

Habitat Repair Trees, shrubs and grasses along Cienega sin Nombre (No-name Wetland) and in the Valley Preserve need volunteers to expand native habitat that feeds and shelters the animals and birds. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

THUR 5/21 8:30am*Caballero Canyon*

Chaparral Chatter hikes will explore the trails of a central section of the Santa Monica Mountains to see mariposa lilies, hummingbird sage, woolly blue curls and other spring and summer wildflowers as we hike through open chaparral and oak woodlands. Meet lower trailhead. Bring water and snack. RSVP 818-345-6749 3hrs

SUN 5/31 8:45am*Peter Strauss Ranch*

La Sierra Restoration Day After meeting at PSR, we caravan to La Sierra Preserve to halt the invasion of weeds that destroy the floral beauty of the preserve in wetlands and along the trails. Bring lunch and water. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SUN 5/31 10am*Malibu Bluffs Park*

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Explore along the trail to discover the fire-following recovery of native wildflowers and grasses (and the invasion of weeds); enjoy great views of mountains and sea; dip your toes into the bay as we walk along the beach; look for dolphins, whales and sea birds. 2hrs. 818-782-9346

SAT 6/6 8:45am*Malibu Creek State Park*

Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands Volunteers have planted thousands of oak trees and native bunch grasses to restore habitat along Las Virgenes and Malibu Creeks. Your help is needed to continue these vital habitat restoration works so the birds and animals of Malibu Creek State Park will survive. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SUN 6/7 8:45am*Cold Creek Preserve*

Habitat Repair See write-up for 5/17. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SAT 6/13 8:45am*Peter Strauss Ranch*

Wetland Restoration Day The task of the day removes yellow star thistle, mustard and other weeds to improve wetland habitats along La Sierra Creek. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SUN 6/14 8:45am*Santa Monica Mountains*

Weed War Each month, the weed war engages non-native invasive plant species (weed) where a native plant community is most threatened along a trail, by a stream, in a grassland. Call 818-591-1701 x203 or email volunteer@treepeople.org. Site TBA. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.* 3.5hrs *

THUR 6/18 8:30am*Caballero Canyon*

Chaparral Chatter See write-up for 5/21. Meet lower trailhead. Bring water and snack. RSVP 818-345-6749 3hrs

SAT 6/20 8:45am*Topanga State Park*

Lower Topanga Park Restoration: See write-up for 5/16. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org 3.5hrs *

SUN 6/28 10am*Malibu Bluffs Park*

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea See write-up for 5/31. 2hrs. 818-348-5910



LOS ANGELES · SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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THANKS

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