



## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By Steve Hartman

I attended the CNPS Chapter Council meeting in September. It was very interesting and I recommend that, if you haven't attended one, you should try attending the next one scheduled for southern California (March 2010). There was a debate about adding the word "gardening" to our mission statement. The current mission statement reads:

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and how to conserve them and their natural habitats through education, science, advocacy, horticulture and land stewardship.

Some felt that adding "gardening" after the word "horticulture" would be redundant, as horticulture does include gardening. Others felt that by doubling the emphasis on growing plants, it diminished CNPS's perceived dedication to conservation. Personally I thought it good to add the word gardening, as if the mission statement is aimed at the "average" person, even if they garden at home, they might not think that they are doing horticulture. A vote was taken and the measure won (14-12) which is certainly not a clear mandate for a change in something as important as the Society's mission statement, especially with a half-dozen chapters not voting.

Later that evening, after a scrumptious banquet, we heard a talk by Mike Evans, co-owner of Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. He commented that landscape uses 60% of the water delivered by the Metropolitan Water District that serves 19 million people. Currently MWD's water reserve levels are down well below half. At a meeting he attended, the MWD board chairman Tim Brick said in effect that California may be entering the most serious drought in modern times, and that what we call "drought" will be considered normal by 2040. Mike says that Californians are living extravagantly when it comes to water usage, that we use twice what Europeans use, and four times what Australians use per year. He says the most significant change in water use must be seen in outdoor landscaping.

But Mike says that the good news is that CNPS is poised to become the positive, authoritative clearinghouse for native plant horticulture, using "water conservation" as the current big attention getter. The other aspect he honed in on was the concept that native home and public gardens that attract birds and insects will help address the "nature deficit" that many children face in this modern urban world. I know for a fact that the amount of wildlife in my native home garden is astounding and far different than when it was lawn and ornamentals. So there are many reasons to promote "gardening" and adding it to the CNPS mission statement is, in the big picture, a good thing.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

November 10, 2009 – 7:30 - 9:30pm  
Sepulveda Garden Center  
16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino

### The Ventura County Flora

Presenter: Rick Burgess, Environmental Biologist

Rick Burgess is an Environmental Biologist and Botanist employed by the City of Thousand Oaks as an environmental planner. Rick is past president of the Channel Islands Chapter of CNPS and was a Director-at-large for State CNPS. He is also an active member of Ventura Audubon.

After twenty years of collecting 8500+ plant specimens, Rick and his wife, Trisha, have yet to finish the Flora of Ventura County they started as a pleasant occasional past-time. Rick will explain what's involved in writing a Flora and why it takes so long to complete the project, illustrating his talk with a general overview of the plants found in the diverse habitats of Ventura County. You will see many of the beautiful wildflowers that occur in those habitats along with directions on where you can go to find them.

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December 8, 2009 – 7:30 - 9:00pm  
First United Methodist Church  
Santa Monica

### A Decade of Killing Plants and Learning From The Survivors

Presenter: Emily Green, Journalist

Emily Green writes the weekly online column The Dry Garden in the Los Angeles Times ([http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/home\\_blog/emily-green/](http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/home_blog/emily-green/)) and publishes the water conservation blog "Chance of Rain." ([www.chanceofrain.com](http://www.chanceofrain.com))

Emily Green will talk about the slow, strangely public path to becoming a native gardener and what lies ahead for the next generation of native gardeners now that the drought has made the city and state more receptive to a once derided and ridiculed gardening movement.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Calendar of Events on page 2.

**PROGRAMS**

**TUES 11/10 7:30-9:30PM**

*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*  
**The Ventura County Flora**  
 Presenter: Rick Burgess

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 12/8 7:30-9:00PM**

*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*  
**A Decade of Killing Plants and Learning From The Survivors**  
 Presenter: Emily Green

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

**BOARD MEETINGS**

**TUES 11/3 7pm**  
**LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting**  
 at Snowy Dodson's home in Van Nuys  
 Chapter members are invited. 15811 Leadwell Street. 818-782-9346

**TUES 12/1 7pm**  
**LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting**  
 at Halli Mason's home in Tarzana. Chapter members are invited. Call for directions. 818-345-6749.

**HIKES AND RESTORATION**

**SAT 11/7 8:45am**  
*Cold Creek Preserve*  
 Cold Creek Preserve Habitat Restoration  
 Day Volunteers are needed to bring back the native plants where invasive non-native plants have taken over. Planting, weeding and watering will restore the trees, wildflowers, sages, shrubs and grasses on which the many birds and animals depend for food, nesting and safety. Oaks and sycamores will again grow along Dry Creek and Cienega Sin Nombre; meadow grasses will wave in the breeze. 3.5 hrs. Community service credit is given. *Reservations required.\**

**SUN 11/8 8:45am**  
*Solstice Canyon Park*  
 Weed War Is Recruiting Volunteers A very invasive plant, false caper (*Euphorbia terracina*), has taken over acres of coastal canyons and hillsides. National Park Service has worked since the fire in November 2007 to prevent non-native invasive plants from crowding out the native plants so necessary to feed, house and protect our native birds and animals. Our mission today: Search and destroy false caper! Bring lunch, water and gloves. 3.5 hrs Receive credit for community service hours. *Reservations required.\**

**SAT 11/14 8:45am**  
*Malibu Creek State Park*  
 Oak Woodland Restoration: Volunteers Needed: The Commemorative Oaks Program plants and cares for native oaks, shrubs and grasses throughout the park to restore wildlife habitat and to add to the beauty of the park. 3.5hrs. Community service credit. *Reservations required.\**

**SUN 11/15 8:45am**  
*Peter Strauss Ranch*  
 La Sierra Canyon Native Plant Restoration. This beautiful area has a remarkable diversity of native plants, but some areas are choked with weeds (invasive non-native plants). We will remove them to allow the native plants to create wildlife habitat. Meet in PSR parking lot to go to work site. Bring lunch and water. 3.5hrs. Receive credit for community service. *Reservations required.\**

**SAT 11/21 8:45am**  
*Topanga State Park*  
 Lower Topanga Creek Restoration: Topanga Creek was returned to its historic channel in 2008. During 2009, creek-side native vegetation is being planted, watered and weeded by volunteers to vanquish non-native invasive plants (weeds). Bring, water, snack, sturdy footwear. 3.5hrs. Credit for community service. *Reservations required.\**

**SAT 11/21 8:30am**  
*Caballero Canyon, Tarzana*  
 Chaparral Chatter After a lovely spring and a hot dry summer, the chaparral eagerly

anticipates winter rains. Let's explore the amazing survival techniques and plant adaptations of this unique plant community, found only in 5 places on earth. (We will probably find some really tough survivors in bloom.). Leisurly hike through Caballero Canyon in the central section of the Santa Monica Mountains; meet lower trailhead; bring water, wear boots and sun protective gear. 3hrs, 800 foot elevation gain. Heavy rain cancels. Call for directions and RSVP to Halli at 818-345-6749..

**SUN 11/22 10am**  
*Malibu Bluffs Park*  
 Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Walk 2-miles on trails with great views, dip your toes into the bay, look for dolphins sea lions and observe the native plant recovery after the 2007 wildfire. 2hrs. 818-782-9346

**SAT 12/5 8:45am**  
*Cold Creek Preserve*  
 Cold Creek Preserve Habitat Restoration Day See write up for 11/7. *Reservations required.\**

**SAT 12/12 8:45am**  
*Topanga State Park*  
 Lower Topanga Creek Restoration: See 11/21 write-up.

**SUN 12/13 9am**  
*Malibu Creek State Park*  
 Weed War Is Recruiting Volunteers Today the California Native Plant Society commemorates the lives of some awesome CNPS members by tending the CNPS Commemorative Oak Grove where 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox warehouse and heavy equipment were once stored. We will enhance the habitat by planting additional trees and acorns. Bring lunch, water and gloves. 3.5hrs Receive credit for community service hours. *Reservations required.\**

**SAT 12/19 8:30am**  
*Caballero Canyon, Tarzana*  
 Chaparral Chatter See write-up for 11/21 Heavy rain cancels. Call for directions and RSVP to Halli at 818-345-6749.

**SAT 12/19 8:45am**  
*Malibu Creek State Park*  
 Oak Woodland Restoration: Volunteers Needed: See write-up for 11/14.\*

**SUN 12/20 8:45am**  
*Peter Strauss Ranch*  
 La Sierra Canyon Native Plant Restoration. See write up 11/15.\*

**SUN 12/27 10am**  
*Malibu Bluffs Park*  
 Bluffs Ramble to the Sea See 11/22 write-up. 2hrs. 818-782-9346

## CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS FOR CHAPTER ELECTION

## SNOWDY DODSON: PRESIDENT

Snowdy has completed four terms as President of our Chapter and is willing to continue on. She has previously held the position of President for SEAL (Science and Engineering Academic Librarians). She has been active at the chapter level of CNPS by co-chairing the Wildflower Show for 7 years; she has worked as a volunteer at the plant sale (5 years); she has led field trips at the Malibu Bluffs State Park; she has participated in our chapter weed wars at Malibu Bluffs Park, Malibu Creek State Park, and also attended local public meetings representing our chapter; she has helped with the TOYON; during the past four years she has served as Chapter alternate representative to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee and attended field trips.

## BETSEY LANDIS: CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE TO STATE CNPS

I would like to continue as Chapter Delegate for the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter for 2010. I have been Chapter Delegate for several years. I am able to attend the four yearly Chapter Council meetings and I serve on several Chapter Council committees. My goal as Chapter Delegate is to ensure that State CNPS organizational structure and Chapters' independence work well together toward the common goal of preservation and enjoyment of California native flora.

## JO KITZ: CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Jo has served as treasurer, president and vice president of the chapter. Since the 1980s Jo has served as the 'general' of the weed warriors, those sturdy volunteers who clear resource lands of non-native invasive species and runs the chapter bookstore. She works at the Mountain Restoration Trust, a local land trust that owns over 2000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains and has over 30 years of volunteer service towards the resource protection of the Santa Monica Mountains.

## HALLI MASON: CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Halli has been an active member of CNPS since the early 80s, first on the local chapter level then for many years on the state level. Halli has also been elected to bring her knowledge and people skill to many different committees. She has been an effective fund raiser and has been co-chair of our chapter's plant sale for a long time.

## SHEILA BRADEN: CO-VICE PRESIDENT

Sheila has been regularly attending chapter board meetings. Sheila is a park ranger for the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains. She has been representing CNPS at the Los Angeles County Weed Management Association meetings.

## HENRIETTA YUAN: SECRETARY

I will run again this year for Secretary having been in this position for over twenty years.

## STEVE HARTMAN: TREASURER

I have been handling the finances for the chapter for well over a decade. I'd like to contribute to the chapter by continuing to handle the chapter finances. My other chapter activities include serving as newsletter editor, web-master ([www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)), co-plant sale chair, and representing our chapter on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee.

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**CHAPTER MEMBER'S BALLOT  
FOR  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
LOS ANGELES / SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2010**

Vote for each office. See above for candidate statements. We have no contested offices, but it is important that members of our chapter vote support of our Chapter's goals and programs. After voting, mail the ballot to CNPS, 4728 Rosita Place, Tarzana, California 91356. December 1, 2009, is the deadline for mailing.

PRESIDENT
 Snowdy Dodson
CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
 Jo Kitz & Halli Mason  
& Sheila Braden
CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE
 Betsey Landis
SECRETARY
 Henrietta Yuan
TREASURER
 Steve Hartman

*Thanks so much for voting! Cut out this ballot, insert in an envelope and mail.*



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

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

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

### SAN GABRIEL CNPS CHAPTER PLANT SALE – NOVEMBER 14

Under the Oaks 2009:

Native Plants for Foothill Gardens  
November 14, 2009, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Eaton Canyon Nature Center,  
1750 Altadena Drive, Pasadena

There will be a good variety of reasonably priced California native plants and wildflower seeds appropriate for gardens in the Los Angeles basin, including plants for attracting birds and butterflies to your home garden. Knowledgeable Chapter members will be on hand to answer questions. For more info visit /www.cnps-sgm.org

## TIME VALUE

# Toyon

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Chapter Website: [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)  
Chapter email: [lacnps@lacnps.org](mailto:lacnps@lacnps.org)

See [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org) for chapter officers.  
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### Chapter Officers:

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**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.