



UPCOMING PROGRAM

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

July 8, 2008 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center
Encino

Freezing Temperature Influence On Chaparral Shrub Distribution In The Santa Monica Mountains

Speaker: Stephen D. Davis,
Distinguished Professor,
Pepperdine University

The presentation will examine the ecological and climate factors that affect the distribution of chaparral shrub species in the Santa Monica Mountains. Drought combined with freezing temperatures can contribute to plant dieback. Plants that are adapted for vegetative resprouting such as laurel sumac can persist and are dominant in cold air drainages. Species not capable of resprouting such as ceanothus cannot persist in cold inland sites but are dominant in non-freezing coastal areas.

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

CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions PHOTO CONTEST

"California Native Plants" - Photos must be taken in California and feature plants native to the state. Images may be species specific macro shots, wide angle landscape photos, or pictures of people or animals interacting with the natural environment of California. Photos may be of but are not limited to - rare or common plants, flowers, trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, bryophytes - surprise us!

1st Prize: \$750, Lowepro Primus AW recycled material backpack, photo published in Fremontia, & 2 complimentary tickets to Conservation Conference banquet.

Continued on page 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- by Snowy Dodson, Chapter President

I am pleased to report that the May 30 and 31 Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the National Park Service was a resounding success. The BioBlitz was a unique combination of scientific endeavor, outdoor classroom and festival with a goal of identifying the biodiversity of the Santa Monica Mountains. More than 6000 people participated including 1400 school children, 1100 scientists (and helpers) on inventories, and 2500 attendees at Paramount Ranch. By the end of the day on May 31, the team had identified 1664 species including 500 plants. BioBlitz was extremely well-organized thanks to the efforts of the staffs of the National Park Service and the National Geographic Society. Many California Native Plant Society members participated by going out into the field on inventories, leading hikes for the public and by staffing our Chapter information booth. In particular I would like to thank Olga Hammer, Halli Mason, Steve Hartman, Christine Walker, Barbara Marinacci, Tanya Quin and Bryan Richert for helping to hand out CNPS literature, sell books, and stamp passports. Kudos also to Betsey and Frank Landis, David Hollombe, Jo Kitz, Rachel Hutchinson, and Nick Jensen (CNPS Rare Plant Botanist) for leading forays for species inventories. The species count will continue into Dec. 2008 as scientists continue to key out species that were collected in the field.

On another note, our June 10th Chapter program on gardening with native grasses was highly informative. Dr. Connie Vadheim of the CSU Dominguez Hills Biology Dept. introduced over 30 attendees to the wide variety of native ornamental bunch grasses, sedges, rushes, and fescues that are suitable for southern California gardens. Her presentation centered on substituting native species for the non-native grasses that are more commonly seen in home gardens. She also covered topics such as soil, watering, and other growing conditions as well as the aesthetic considerations of leaf and seed color and form and plant size. Dr. Vadheim concluded her program with a raffle of native grasses that she had propagated. Attendees were provided with handouts listing grasses and other lawn substitutes and southern California native plant nurseries/growers. I know that we all acquired a wealth of ideas on how to integrate grasses creatively into our own gardens.

SAVE THE DATE: 14th Annual Santa Clara River Rally, Cleanup and Environmental Expo, Sat. Sept. 20, 2008, 8 am - 11 am. Location: Wiley Canyon Rd. off the Via Princessa Bridge (east of Orchard Village Rd.) in Valencia. Contact: Casey Bingham 661-286-4039.

New directors at Mountains Restoration Trust

Local environmentalists Jo Kitz and Debbie Bruschaber have been named acting directors of the Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT). They replace former executive director Steve Harris, who resigned in March. "The organization's programs, projects and goals will remain unchanged." Steve Harris leaves after 27 years of dedication and accomplishments that have advanced the mission of the MRT," says Frank Roberts, president of the MRT Board. "The MRT's dedicated staff, many wonderful volunteers and a non-compensated board of directors continue to serve as always."

"With the full confidence and increased involvement of the board members, Debbie and Jo will take the reins for the immediate future and continue to advance the mission of the MRT," says Roberts. "We are currently in the process of acquiring several hundred acres of additional special properties and trail easements for preservation."

Jo Kitz is a long-time member of the Los Angeles/ Santa Monica Mountains Chapter Board. She joined MRT in 1989, after 17 years of activism in the Santa Monica Mountains. In 1989, she organized Save the Mountain Park, a coalition of 54 volunteer organizations that successfully lobbied Congress for funding for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. In 1994, she was named a Fellow of the California Native Plant Society for her contributions to the preservation and enjoyment of California flora. She was a founding member of the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, now known as Cal-IPC, and in 2004, Assemblywoman Fran Pavley honored her as "Woman of the Year" in the 41st District. As program director at the MRT, Kitz has overseen management and protection of the MRT preserves in the Cold Creek area. She has also leads Commemorative Oaks, an oak-woodland restoration project at Malibu Creek State Park that has planted more than 3,000 oak trees and encourages the return of native plants to support the young trees.

Bruschaber has spent more than 25 years in the real estate industry; her work has ranged from land acquisition for master-planned developments to natural resource protection to financing, appraisal and construction. For the past 16 years, she has focused on water-quality improvement, habitat restoration and open-space acquisition; for eight of those years she has been a project manager at the MRT. She worked to develop Headwaters Corner at Calabasas, a 12-acre interpretive site containing significant environmental and cultural resources. Last year she headed the restoration of Dry Canyon Creek at that site; more than 900 linear feet of restored stream now support numerous aquatic plants and animals. Bruschaber is president of the Calabasas Historical Society and Historic Preservation Commissioner for the City of Calabasas.

The MRT was established in 1981 by the State Coastal Conservancy. A not-for-profit 501(c)3 land trust, it works in partnership with the community, government agencies and elected officials to preserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains. The MRT has placed conservation easements on more than 2,000 undeveloped acres in the mountains.

Public programs and restoration activities are held in the MRT's 1,200-acre Cold Creek Preserve, at Headwaters Corner at Calabasas and at various other locations. The Trust offers weekend educational programs, special events and volunteer and community service opportunities. For information or to participate, visit www.mountainstrust.org or call 818-591-1701.

DID YOU KNOW

that you can renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card? As an option, you can set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces the cost of mailing renewal notices.

www.cnps.org

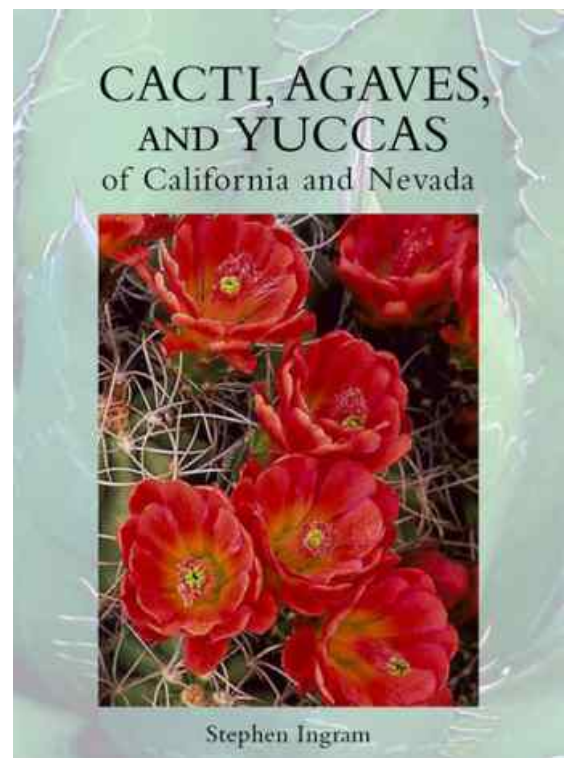
Click on the JOIN button

New Book Release!

Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada

Many of you know Stephen Ingram, CNPS Bristlecone Chapter member, botanist and photographer. The cactus, agave, and yucca book that he has been working on for the last few years is printed and ready to be shipped out. It is currently available for 20% off the retail price 2 mouse clicks from here:

www.ingramphoto.com which takes you to www.CachumaPress.com. It will be available at Amazon and better book stores in some parts of CA and NV in the near future, but why wait? You can support a small, but important independent publishing company by ordering directly from them. A list of upcoming programs and book-signings (including a visit to the Theodore Payne Foundation on July 26) can be found under News at: www.CachumaPress.com/news/index.html if you're interested. The book can also be ordered at the CNPS online bookstore at www.cnps.org.



PROGRAMS

TUES 7/8 7:30-9:30pm

*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*Freezing Effects On
Chaparral Shrubs

Speaker: Stephen D. Davis, Pepperdine

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)

For information about the above program, please see "Upcoming Program" on front page.

No August Program

BOARD MEETINGS

JULY BOARD MEETING CANCELLED

TUES 8/5 7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Jo Kitz at 6223 Lubao Avenue, Woodland Hills, 91367. Chapter members are invited. Call for directions. 818-348-5910

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SAT 7/5 8am

Malibu Creek State Park

Oak Savannah Restoration/
Commemorative Oaks We'll weed and water oak tree seedlings and native bunch grasses so they can survive and restore life, beauty and habitat. Community service credit. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701x203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with California State Parks and Mountains Restoration Trust.

SAT 7/12 8am

Peter Strauss Ranch

Wetland Restoration Day After meeting at PSR, we will remove yellow star thistle, mustard and other weeds to improve habitats in the La Sierra Preserve. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 7/13 9am

Cold Creek Preserve

Weed War .Work on eradicating non-native Iris that is invading riparian habitat. Community service credit. *Reservations required* 818-348-5910. 5hrs. Co-sponsored with California State Parks and Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 7/27 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. 818-704-9522

SUN 8/10 9am

Santa Monica Mountains

Weed Wars The beach and bluff parks are lovely places to get rid of weeds so wildflowers will bloom. (Community service credit.) Call for location. *Reservations required.* 818-348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored with California State Parks.

SAT 8/16 8am

Malibu Creek State Park

Oak Savannah Restoration/
Commemorative Oaks We'll weed and water oak tree seedlings and native bunch grasses so they can survive this drought year and restore life, beauty and habitat. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701x203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with California State Parks and Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 8/24 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 see how native plants recover after a wildfire. 2hrs 818-782-9346.

SAVE THE DATE
LA/SMM CHAPTER
Garden Party
September 27, 2008



Tujunga Wash Greenway and Stream Restoration Project

Since November 2007 I've noticed a new native landscape in the San Fernando Valley Both sides of the Tujunga Wash (between Vanowen St. and Oxnard Ave.) now feature vibrant vegetation that is native to the Los Angeles River Watershed and pathways for walking and biking. To reintroduce a sustainable, healthy stream system into the park-poor community of Valley Glen, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District diverted water from the concrete channel that formerly fed directly into the Los Angeles River. In an average rainfall year, up to 325,000 gallons daily will flow through the Wash's new naturalized streambed, improving water quality in the region by recharging enough groundwater into the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin to supply 760 families of four for an entire year. To access the greenway along the Tujunga Wash, park on the east side of Fulton just south of Vanowen. *By Steve Hartman.*

Conservation Report

BY ILEENE ANDERSON

I'm honored to represent the CNPS on the Friends of the Santa Clara River Board of Directors. The Friends was formed fifteen years ago as a mechanism for achieving greater conservation on the Santa Clara River, the largest free-flowing river not on a military base in Southern California (the Santa Margarita is primarily on Camp Pendleton). The Santa Clara River flows from its headwaters near Acton in Los Angeles County to the Pacific near Oxnard in Ventura County. Significant efforts are being made in Ventura county to secure open space along the river...unfortunately the same can not be said in Los Angeles County.

One of the big issues that the CNPS has been working on for years along the Santa Clara River is the Newhall Ranch development. The Los Angeles County specific plan was rubberstamped in 2003 and would allow four different "villages" for a total of 21,000 houses to move forward through the environmental review process. The beautiful oak savannahs, sage scrub and riparian communities behind Magic Mountain west to the County line could potentially be another cookie-cutter housing tract.

However, maybe not...the first "village" currently called Landmark Village is in the environmental review process. It would channelize the Santa Clara River and impact significant riparian resources. At the last planning commission hearing, the commission sent the project back for additional work...mostly on schools and traffic. That was a year ago and the project has not yet resurfaced. The next "village" currently called Mission Village would heavily impact the San Fernando Valley spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) a diminutive plant thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1999. You'll recall that Newhall Ranch got its hand slapped for lying to the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) about the

spineflower's existence (they denied it), until CDFG obtained a search warrant and caught Newhall Ranch red-handed trying to graze the plant with cows...presumably into oblivion. Out of this debacle, the spineflower got a 62 acre reserve, although the plants cover a much vaster area.

Now, with the housing market "in the tank", and filling gas tanks for commuters taking a large bite out of the family budget, developing a new city on the fringe of the suburbs is not feasible right now.

Recently, the Newhall Ranch developers took another big hit. Newhall Ranch development is owned by parent company LandSource Communities Development and is heavily invested in by The California Public Employees' Retirement System, CalPERS. In May, LandSource defaulted on its loan payment to CalPERS according to the Los Angeles Times (<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-calpers19-2008may19,0,7906802.story>). Environmental organizations had warned CalPERS through a letter writing campaign in 2007 that investing in Newhall Ranch was a bad idea...and we were right. Now, retired California employees are bearing the brunt of investing in an ill-conceived boondoggle of a project.

But there is a silver lining the environmental groups are currently working hard to get a bail-out for CalPERS through a buyout of the Newhall Ranch – a buyout for open space conservation. Please write your state legislators, Secretary of Resources etc. and ask them to consider buying out Newhall Ranch to save not only a classic piece of California landscape bursting with exquisite native plants and plant communities but also California retirees from financial hardship in their golden years.

Don't know who your State representatives are? Find them by entering your zip code at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> Secretary Mike Chrisman can be reached at secretary@resources.ca.gov or Resources Agency, 1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 653-5656 or (916) 653-8102 fax.

SANTA SUSANA FIELD LAB ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT NOTICE

The Dept. of Energy (DOE) has issued a notice of intent to prepare an EIS for remediation of Area IV of the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) and conduct public scoping meetings. The public scoping period began on May 16, 2008 and will continue until Aug. 14, 2008. Local public scoping meetings are scheduled in Simi Valley at the Grand Vista Hotel, 999 Enchanted Way, July 22, 2008, 2 pm – 4 pm and 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm; and in Northridge at the World Vision Church, 19514 Rinaldi St., July 23, 2008, 2 pm – 4 pm and 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. The SSFL located on approximately 2852 acres in the hills between Chatsworth and Simi Valley is a site where Rocketdyne conducted rocket testing and operated nuclear reactors from 1947 to 1988. A nuclear accident in July 1959 caused the release of radioactive gases. DOE is preparing an EIS to evaluate cleanup alternatives for the site. In addition to the public health concerns regarding the cleanup, there are implications for impacts to ecological resources that are on the SSFL site including endangered and protected species such as Braunton's milk-vetch, Santa Susana tarweed, Southern California black walnut and mariposa lilies. DOE expects to issue a draft EIS in early 2009 with a period for comments and the final EIS in fall 2010. Further information is available at <http://www.ete.energy.gov/> Written comments should be addressed to Ms. Stephanie Jennings, NEPA Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, P.O. Box 10300, Canoga Park, CA 91309, Express Mail Delivery Address: 5800 Woolsey Canyon Road, Canoga Park, CA 91304.

Pierce College's Outdoor "Living Classroom" Adds Beauty and Learning Opportunities

The S. Mark Taper Foundation Life Science Botanic Garden is Pierce's "living classroom," providing a tranquil environment for students to relax, socialize and study. 2008 marked the completion of the second phase of the S. Mark Taper Foundation Life Science Botanic Garden. The expansive 80,000 sq. ft. "living classroom" is home to one of the finest collections of drought-resistant plants in the region, including an array of Mediterranean plants, Australian and South African native shrubs, and Southern California native plants. The quarter-million-dollar project which was also funded through generous grants from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the S. Mark Taper Foundation will serve as a premier environment for studying the beauty and viability of this region's drought-resistant plants.

Environmental ist/Activist Jill Swift Dies

Jill Swift died at her home in Tarzana after a 12-year struggle with multiple myeloma.

Jill delighted in the urban wildlife of hummingbirds, raccoons and an occasional coyote. Hawks circled over her backyard. She spent her last days watching the little finches find refuge in her trees and shrubs and taking endless baths in the little pools she provided for them. Her wildflower meadow attracted all kinds of critters during the day and night. It was always important to Jill to provide an urban oasis for wildlife and she achieved that by planting many California native plants. In the fall she often scattered wildflower seeds in the area that once was a lawn.

Jill hiked all over the world. But her heart belonged to the Santa Monica Mountains where she led hundreds of walks for the Sierra Club on a regular basis. In the late seventies Jill organized the now-famous “Mulholland March”, organizing the public to protest the paving of Mulholland Drive. Five-thousand people showed up. Jill explained that a paved road would cut through the heart of the mountains, bisecting it; that these mountains needed to be protected, that these mountains were a treasure right in the center of a major metropolitan area, that the biodiversity of these mountains was spectacular, that the native animals needed the native flora to flourish and that a paved road would only open up the mountains to more and more development. In 1978 Congress created the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Jill deserves a lot of credit for having this come about. Jill's local “love” was Caballero Canyon where a memorial hike was held in her honor on June 22nd.

Jill also led the way to expand the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. She held meetings of the “Haskell Creek Committee” at her home where local activists gathered. The results of these meetings led to the Wildlife Reserve being expanded to encompass both sides of Haskell Creek, and to the City of Los Angeles establishing the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee that has been meeting since 1993.

We all owe Jill a measure of gratitude for her public awareness campaign, her activism in the Sierra Club, and her strong support of the California Native Plant Society. Jill's enthusiasm was infectious. She was a great role model. Her voice will be missed in opposing unsound ecological and environmentally insensitive projects. Jill will be missed as a friend.

By Halli Mason

Jill leads bucket brigade to urge the City of L.A. to fill the wildlife lake in the Sepulveda Basin in 1990.



Photo by Wendy Averill



PHOTO CONTEST *from page 1*

2nd Prize: \$500, Lowepro Primus AW recycled material backpack, photo published in Fremontia, & 2 complimentary tickets to Conservation Conference banquet.

3rd Prize: \$250, Lowepro Primus AW recycled material backpack, photo published in Fremontia, & 2 complimentary tickets to Conservation Conference banquet.

Runners-up (3): Lowepro Fastpack 250.

Size and Format: 5x7” or 8x10” photos. (Slight variations in size will be accepted.) Please- no mats, no frames, no glass. Photos must be mounted on foam core or backing mat board and enclosed in a clear poly envelope for display at conference. Please mark back of entry with title of the piece and name of photographer.

Deadline for Entries: November 15, 2008. Entries will be accepted by mail September 15- November 14, 2008 and for drop-off Saturday, November 15, 2008 at the CNPS state office in Sacramento, CA, between the hours of 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Deliver/Ship to the state headquarters of CNPS at the following address: CNPS, Photo Contest, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Entry form specifics: Please type or write legibly on entry form. All fields must be completed including: name of photographer, full mailing address, phone number with area code, email, specific location and date photo was taken, brief description of subject matter, photo title, type of film (if applicable), and brand of camera photo was taken with. Entry form will be posted on web site as contest submission deadlines approach.

Entry fees: \$20 per entry or \$10 per entry for conference attendees.

Awards: Winners will be announced at the CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference banquet at the Sacramento Convention Center on January 17, 2009. Prize winners will be contacted around December 15, 2008 to be given complimentary tickets to attend the banquet.

For additional details about judges, right of use, photo pickup and return, please visit:
<http://cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2009/photos.php>

Calochortus plummerae

By Dan Cooper

I collected this species in Griffith Park in early May (sterile specimen) but I wasn't 100% sure until later in the month when I found 50+ plants in bloom at Franklin Cyn. above Beverly Hills (voucher collected). They're on coarse ridge-top soils, southwest exposure, growing in open Chamise-Ceanothus-Salvia mellifera scrub w/ Eriastrum/Cryptantha/Chaenactis at openings (both Griffith and Franklin). I just noticed today that the Griffith specimen was starting to flower within my plant press!

The Griffith location was just above the Sunset Stables (top of Beachwood Cyn. Dr.) where you can take a footpath straight up a ridge.



Calochortus plummerae

Griffith Park, May 25, 2008, photo by Jorge Ochoa

Tejon Ranch Agreement Preserves 240,000 Acres

The Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Audubon California, the Planning and Conservation League, and the Endangered Habitats League agreed not to oppose the proposed development on the remaining ten percent of the Ranch. The agreement announced on May 8 will preserve habitat for threatened and endangered species in an area that marks the intersection of the Sierra Nevadas, the Coastal Range, the San Joaquin Valley, and the Mojave Desert, protecting mostly animals (California condor, etc.), but including the striped adobe lily and Bakersfield cactus. However, CNPS is concerned about the fate of the existing wildflower fields that would be likely displaced by the two large proposed developments.

Invasions Lead Extinctions by 24-to-1

Plant invaders keep on coming, with no end in sight. This is bad news for native species. Plant species from other countries continue to invade the United States at alarming rates, according to a recent paper in Ecology Letters authored by USGS scientist Tom Stohlgren and colleagues. Over the past 400 years in the United States, exotic species invasion rate exceeds their extinction rate by roughly a 24-to-1 margin. On average, four or five plant species per year have invaded the Pacific Northwest states over the past 100 years. Authors of this new paper also report that the plant invasions are continuing, exotic plants are rapidly spreading county to county, and the greatest invasions occur in plant communities with the largest number of native species. Currently there is no sign that nativeplant communities are filled to the brim with native species. Many of these exotic plants are noxious weeds, which increase fire hazards and degrade property values and wildlife habitat. For more information, visit <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1461-0248.2008.01153.x>, or contact Tom Stohlgren at (970) 491-1980 or tom_stohlgren@usgs.gov.

House Passes Rim of the Valley Corridor Study

On April 29, the House passed legislation that authorizes the Rim of the Valley Corridor Study to be conducted by the National Park Service. The bill passed the Senate earlier in April, and now heads to the President.

This study will determine the potential impact of expanding the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the mountains and valleys known as the Rim of the Valley Corridor, an area that includes the mountains encircling the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys, as well as areas within the Santa Susana Mountains, just north of Granada Hills.

"The passage of this bill is the next step in the continuing efforts to protect the natural resources of this geographically and ecologically distinct region in Southern California," said Congressman Brad Sherman. "This legislation addresses the needs and interests of both private landowners and communities within the boundaries of the Rim of the Valley Corridor."

Since coming to Congress, Congressman Sherman has worked to help expand the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which is the nation's largest urban national park. It is estimated that annually, there are over 33 million visits to the recreation area's pristine parks and world-renowned beaches. The Rim of the Valley Corridor contains accessible recreation trails for the use and enjoyment of the millions of residents in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. The expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include this area would allow for the completion of the Rim of the Valley Trail. This trail will run 150 miles and offer sweeping vistas of the San Fernando Valley and Los Angeles basins. It will also link four mountain ranges.

Cal Trans Proposal Would Severely Impact Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

Since 1988, when the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve was established with the creation of an 11-acre Wildlife Lake, I have been involved with the care and maintenance of this world-class urban wildlife refuge. I have spent countless hours weeding, attending meetings of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee, leading workshops, surveying for weeds, and also enjoying the area.

A few years ago representatives from CalTrans met with the Committee to discuss possible plans for modernizing the 101-405 interchange, especially in regards to the connector from the southbound 405 to the northbound 101. One plan required removing houses, and that proposal was dropped. Two other proposals require moving the on- and off-ramps on Burbank Blvd. from their existing location (at the top of the dam) to a location about 1/8 mile west, with looping connectors that would run into the Wildlife Reserve, creating dead zones under the ramps, huge disturbances during construction, and create an isolated fragment in the center of the loop.

If we have to start diminishing the pathetically few wildlife areas that we have in order to accommodate more growth, then we're going in the wrong direction. Instead of buying into the concept of unlimited traffic growth, CALTRANS should be planning for a future that is geared to mass transit. We should look to planning that lessens our freeway carbon footprint not one that promotes an increased traffic glut and air pollution.

The Wildlife Reserve is one of the few remaining wild wetlands in the San Fernando Valley which was historically covered with ecologically rich marshes, ponds, streams and a river. The eastern portion of the Wildlife Reserve is open habitat with scattered *Baccharis* sp. especially conducive for birds of prey, and is a nesting area for a variety of bird species. This is also the main Canada goose foraging area in the Wildlife Reserve. This same area is currently one of the least disturbed (by humans) in the Wildlife Reserve. The portion along Burbank Blvd. has many mature oak and walnut trees, many of which were planted using funds that were penalties (mitigation) for chemical spills in the Basin. The addition of freeway on- and off-ramps in the eastern portion of the Wildlife Reserve would fragment the habitat, most likely ruining it for raptor or Canada goose foraging, create dead zones under the overpasses, and probably lead to a huge increase in homeless people due to the overpasses. The sense of "wild nature" that is available will be seriously reduced, and that sense of getting out in nature that is such a key component of the children's education program would be impacted. The disturbance to the soil due to actual construction, rights-of-way and buffer zones, and access to the construction zone would likely set back weed control efforts to square one, obliterating nearly 20 years of effort and significant investments by CNPS, the Wildlife Reserve Consortium, the City of Los Angeles and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The comment period for this project ended in late May and we sent in detailed letters objecting to such a plan. Both the Army Corps of Engineers (who "own" and manage the flood control basin) and the California Dept. of Fish and Game object to this CalTrans proposal. Hopefull CalTrans engineers will go back to the drawing board and figure out a way to fix the connector problem without destroying a significant portion of the only open space in the center of the San Fernando Valley.

By Steven L. Hartman



at left, portion of Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve that would be impacted by proposed on- and off-ramps.

Theodore Payne Foundation

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley 91352 - (818) 768-1802 - www.theodorepayne.org
Summer Schedule: Nursery and Store Open Thursday – Saturday 8:30am to 4:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES

California Native Plant Horticulture with Lili Singer
Saturdays, July 12 and August 9, 10:00am-1:00pm
Fee: \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers

The TPF Skinny on Seeds with Kathy Parenteau
Saturday, July 19 and August 16, 10am – 12pm
Learn how the Foundation handles seed: from collection to processing, storage and documentation.
Fee: \$20 members; \$30 non-members

Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada with Stephen Ingram
Saturday, July 26, 10am-12pm
Fee: \$10.00 members. \$15.00 non-members

Classes fill quickly, so reserve early.
Class cancellation policy: No refunds will be issued for cancellations made within 7 days of class date.



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

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CNPS PHOTO CONTEST

see page 1

We have seen your great photographs,
 now's your chance to show your stuff at
 the CNPS photo contest!

GRIFFITH PARK POST BURN WEEDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

LA Dept. of Recreation & Parks is looking for
 volunteers to help with weeding the natural
 areas in the burned sections of Griffith Park.
 To schedule weeding events for groups of 10 or
 more people please contact: Andrea Epstein,
 Volunteer Coordinator, Development &
 Marketing Division, Los Angeles Dept. of
 Recreation & Parks 213.928.9290,
 Andrea.Epstein@lacity.org

TIME VALUE

Toyon

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 4
 JULY – AUGUST 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Front Page
 July Program
 President's Message

Page 4
 Santa Clara River
 Santa Susana EIS,
 Pierce College Living Class

Page 2
 New MRT Directors,
 Cacti, Agaves, & Yuccas

Page 5
 Jill Swift Obituary

Page 3
 Calendar of
 Chapter Activities,
 Tujunga Wash Greenway

Page 6
Calochortus plummerae,
 Tejon Ranch,
 Rim of Valley Corridor

Page 7
 Sepulveda Basin

 Chapter Message Phone: (818) 881-3706
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