



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

May 13, 2008 – 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). CNPS chapter members will be 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.

June 10, 2008 – 7:30 - 9:30pm  
First United Methodist Church  
Santa Monica

### YES! You Can Garden With Native Grasses

Speaker: Dr. Connie Vadheim

Why use alien ornamental grasses in your garden when there are so many wonderful natives to choose from? Dr. Connie Vadheim (CSU Dominguez Hills) will discuss native ornamental bunch grasses appropriate for many types of garden conditions. She will bring examples of several native grasses, as well as some grasses to raffle.

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Snowdy Dodson, Chapter President

Greetings and a joyous spring to you all. Our CNPS LA/SMM Chapter Wildflower Show on March 22 & 23, 2008 attracted hundreds of visitors to Malibu Bluffs Park. The excellent weather and glorious blooms were the star attractions of the weekend. Many thanks to all of you who made the event possible by viewing the cut wildflower displays, buying books, posters, plants and 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 classic landscape. Plant specimens came from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden with the assistance of Bart O'Brien as well as from the private gardens of Trish & Chris Meyer, Steve & Leslie Hartman, Doug Allan, Nurit Whitney and Karen Cotter. Many thanks go out to all individuals and institutions that either contributed or gathered flowers for this year's crowd-pleasing display.

As usual, California native plants were available for purchase. Trish and Chris Meyer were knowledgeable plant sales persons with help from Christine Walker and Katy Okun. Our thanks go to Matilija Nursery ([www.matilijanursery.com](http://www.matilijanursery.com)) and Bob Sussman for high-quality native plants.

Wildflower Show Co-Chairs Sheila Bjornlie, Snowdy Dodson, and Trish Meyer would like to thank the following volunteers for making the 2008 event a success: Halli Mason, and Brendan Clark, wildflower walk leaders; Harvey Bjornlie, set-up; David Hollombe, plant labels, wildflower walk assistance and cleanup; Sid Mendel, Henry Carleton, Jo Kitz, & Olga Hammer, book sales; Henrietta & Bill Yuan & granddaughter who ran our canteen; Kurt Rademacher, set-up; Henry Carleton, setup and Saturday volunteer; Sandy Glover and Pong Apinyavat who displayed their lovely paintings; The National Park Service and Sheila Braden for maps and information; and the City of Malibu, Parks and Recreation Dept. for the venue and support staff.

As you can see, volunteers are the vital heart of our CNPS organization. I have personally found that volunteering is an addictive pastime. That is why I am always hitting up on you, our members, to step forward and continue with your contributions to CNPS. So, now I want you to begin thinking about BioBlitz on May 30 & 31, 2008. Our CNPS LA/SMM Chapter needs you to help meet and greet the public at our booth during this event at Paramount Ranch. We will be there on both days to deliver the California Native Plant Society message and to promote the biodiversity to be found in the Santa Monica Mountains. Together we will make this happen. Contact me at [snowdy.dodson@csun.edu](mailto:snowdy.dodson@csun.edu) or 818-782-9346 for further details.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### “Big Sunday” Events

Go Plantin' in a Park Project #0103

Sunday, May 4, 1-4pm

Malibu Creek State Park

This Big Sunday event is a continuation of the Mountain Restoration Trust's 16-year effort to replace mustard and riggut with oak trees and native grasses. In the past three years, State Parks has grown thousands of *Nassella pulchra* (formerly *Stipa pulchra*) which is still purple needlegrass California's state grass.

This year CNPS and MRT volunteers have been challenged to help plant over 4,000 *Stipa* plugs that in two years will become very large clumps with a root structure capable of descending 8 feet into the soil. *Stipa* plugs have become the Weed War's secret weapon. Once the purple needlegrass establishes, a combination of its mychorrizal association and its massive root structure precludes the successful survival in oak woodland sites of our #1 weed enemy – annual and perennial mustard.

It is also very possible that the purple needlegrass, valley oaks and coast live oaks benefit from each others compatible root systems.

You can register directly through Big Sunday (see below) or call and leave a message for me that includes all pertinent details, (name, address, phone, number of folks coming, email) at 818-348-5910.

Chatsworth, Canoga Park, West Hills, Winnetka

Day of Service & Resource Fair

Saturday, May 3, 8am-2pm

Chatsworth Train Depot

Join in to enjoy beautifying & greening our communities & schools. Sponsored by: Mayor Villaraigosa and Councilmembers Greig Smith & Dennis Zine. Volunteer activities 8 am to noon; resource fair 11 am to 2 pm Free lunch. Chatsworth Train Depot, 10038 Old Depot Plaza Rd., Chatsworth, 91311. Also, in collaboration with Big Sunday ([www.bigsunday.org](http://www.bigsunday.org)). Contact the Mayor's Office at 213-922-9737 or [volunteer@lacity.org](mailto:volunteer@lacity.org)

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Theodore Payne Foundation Wildflower Hotline  
818-768-3533

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Call for papers - CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference - Strategies and Solutions

The CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference, *Strategies and Solutions*, will take place January 17-19, 2009, at the Sacramento Convention Center and the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Sacramento, CA. The CNPS 2009 Conference will precede The Western Section of the Wildlife Society's annual meeting which will take place January 21-23 at the same location. Jerome Ringo, Apollo Alliance President, will be one of our keynote speakers.

The main goal of this conference is to identify and promote science- and policy-based strategies and solutions to improve the conservation of California's native flora and natural landscapes. To learn more about the principal objectives and programmatic content of the conference, please visit [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and click on conservation.

The call for papers is now open and it will close June 30, 2008. Abstract submission instructions and session information can be found on the conference website. We encourage submissions from a wide audience of researchers, practitioners, students and professionals alike. Our ability to achieve the mission of our society is impelled by a unique collaborative effort of interested and involved persons. We hope that you will contribute your plant conservation efforts to our conference.

Registration for the CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference opens July 1, 2008, and more details will be posted to [www.cnps.org/registration](http://www.cnps.org/registration) as they are available.

Volunteers are needed. This, like many other CNPS endeavors, is also a volunteer-based initiative and your support is needed! If you wish to become involved in the planning of this great event and/or help on-site during the conference, please contact us. To help with the conference arrangements, please contact Josie Crawford at [jrcrawford@cnps.org](mailto:jrcrawford@cnps.org). To help on-site, please contact Andrea Williams, [Andrea\\_Williams@nps.gov](mailto:Andrea_Williams@nps.gov). Partial rebates of conference registration are available to on-site conference volunteers. More details can be found on the conference website.

We are also seeking conference sponsors. If you wish to become a conference sponsor or know someone who would, please contact Amanda Jorgenson: [ajorgenson@cnps.org](mailto:ajorgenson@cnps.org).

## CAMPAIGN TO SAVE TOPANGA & OTHER STATE PARKS

On January 10, 2008, Ruth Coleman, Director of California Department of Parks and Recreation, announced that Topanga State Park, Will Rogers State Historical Park, Santa Susana Pass State Historical Park, and Los Encinos State Historical Park would among the 48 State Parks closed if Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposal to cut \$13.3 million from the state park budget is approved.

Residents of Los Angeles County who are opposed to the closure of Topanga State Park and other local parks need to contact the Governor and their state legislators immediately and ask them to work to keep our parks open. Let them know you oppose closing any of our California State Parks. Please act immediately as the state budget is now under consideration. For more information go to [SaveTopangaStatePark.org](http://SaveTopangaStatePark.org) or [www.SaveStateParks.org](http://www.SaveStateParks.org)

Topanga State Park is among the top 20% of most visited state parks in California and is used by almost half a million people a year. It is 13,000 acres in size, and lies entirely within the City of Los Angeles. This park is one of our state's remarkable wilderness parks, and it is accessible to a huge and diverse urban population who enjoy the park for hiking, biking, horseback riding, birding, and taking pleasure in nature. There are about 50 miles of trails in the park including 18 miles of the 70 mile Backbone Trail of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Topanga State Park is very porous to adjacent neighborhoods and access is mostly by foot or bike from dozens of entrances and hundreds of backyards. It would be virtually impossible to keep people out. The Park also serves as an outdoor nature classroom for thousands of schoolchildren.

The facts above speak to Topanga State Park in particular; however, all parks in the highly urbanized and over-developed Los Angeles County are valuable and precious resources. Access to open space and outdoor activities should be guaranteed to our citizens not restricted or closed.

Please take action and write, phone, or fax your state legislators today. You may wish to contact Assembly Member Julia Brownley or Senator Sheila Kuehl whose districts are covered by these closures. Email Gov Arnold Schwarzenegger [www.gov.ca.gov](http://www.gov.ca.gov) or contact him at his local office via his Office Director, Billie Greer, 213-897-0322 [billie.greer@gov.ca.gov](mailto:billie.greer@gov.ca.gov); or contact Ruth Coleman, Director, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814.

## PROGRAMS

TUES 5/13 7:30-9:30pm

*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*Plant Identification  
Workshop

## Led by CNPS Chapter Members

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 6/10 7:30-9:30pm

Yes! You Can Garden  
With Native Grasses  
Speaker: Dr. Connie Vadheim

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 5/6 7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Steve Hartman at 4444 Longridge Avenue, Sherman Oaks, 91423. Chapter members are invited. 818-881-3706

TUES 6/3 7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Snowdy Dodson at 15811 Leadwell Street, Van Nuys, 91406. Chapter members are invited. Call for directions. 818-782-9346

## BioBlitz -

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS  
May 30-31, 2008 / Noon to Noon  
Our CNPS Chapter will be staffing a booth and leading activities during BioBlitz. To volunteer for these efforts please contact Snowdy Dodson (818) 782-9346, or email Snowdy at [snowdy.dodson@csun.edu](mailto:snowdy.dodson@csun.edu).

## HIKES AND RESTORATION

SAT 5/3 9am

*Peter Strauss Ranch*

Wetland Restoration Day After meeting at PSR, we will caravan to La Sierra Preserve to remove yellow star thistle, mustard and other weeds to improve wetland habitats along La Sierra Creek. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203. 5hrs. Co-sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 5/11 9am

*Santa Monica Mountains*

Weed War Remember Mother Nature today, enjoy the fire-following wildflowers, and weed out non-native invasive species (weeds) in a post-fire area. Site TBA. Community service credit. Call for location and reservations.. 818-704-9522. 4hrs

THUR 5/15 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. 818-782-9346. 3hrs

SUN 5/18 9am

*Santa Monica Mountains*

Fire-Follower Wildflower Walk Rising from the ashes of last year's wildfires, the long-dormant seeds and bulbs of native wildflowers germinate and bloom to create a palette of incredible color and diversity. For site and meeting place, please call the CNPS 24-hour message machine: 818-881-3706 or 818-704-9522. 4hrs

THUR 5/22 9:30am

*Cold Creek Preserve -**Lower Stunt High Trailhead*

Cold Creek Meanders on the Cold Creek High Trail Join us for a 4-mile walk under oaks, through mountain lilac tunnels and across meadows, and along the way we'll see a myriad of spring wildflowers and stunning views. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes; bring water and lunch. 818-591-1701 x203. 3hrs

SUN 5/25 10am

*Malibu Bluffs Park*

Bluffs Post-Fire Ramble to the Sea Explore along the trail to discover the fire-following recovery of native plants 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 fire-following wildflowers. 818-345-6749. 2hrs

SAT 6/7 9am

*Santa Monica Mountains*

Wetland Restoration Day The task of the day is to remove yellow star thistle, mustard and other weeds to improve wetland habitats along La Sierra Creek. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* Call for meeting place. 818-591-1701 x203. Co-sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust. 5hrs

SUN 6/8 9am

*Santa Monica Mountains*

Weed War After the Fire Along with the fire-following wildflowers is a crop of invasive weeds. We will remove those weeds before they remove the native wildflowers and plants. Site TBA. Community service credit. Call for location and reservations. Co-sponsored by the Calif. Dept. of Parks and Recreation. 818-704-9522. 5hrs

SAT 6/14 9am

*Santa Monica Mountains*

Fire-Follower Wildflower Walk Rising from the ashes of last year's wildfires, the long-dormant seeds and bulbs of native wildflowers germinate and bloom to create a palette of incredible color and diversity. For site and meeting place, please call the CNPS 24-hour message machine: 818-881-3706 or 818-704-9522. 4hrs

THUR 6/19 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. 818-345-6749 3hrs

SUN 6/22 10am

*Malibu Bluffs Park*

Post-Fire Ramble to the Sea Explore along the trail to discover the fire-following recovery of native plants 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 fire-following wildflowers. 818-704-9522. 2hrs

THUR 6/26 9am

*Cold Creek Preserve - Lower gate*

Cold Creek Meanders on Backbone Trail Join us for a 4-mile walk through chaparral, red shank tunnels, across meadows and through the Canyon Preserve. All along the way we'll see a myriad of spring wildflowers and stunning views. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes; bring water and lunch/snack. 818-591-1701 x203. 3hrs



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

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## BioBlitz May 30-31

The Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz is presented by National Geographic and the National Park Service in collaboration with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and California State Parks. Teams of naturalists, scientists, and volunteers will comb the park's 150,000+ acres, observing and recording as many species as possible within a 24-hour period (noon to noon). Additional activities include presentations about biodiversity, structured field exercises for K-12 classes, demonstrations of field technology, and local nature photography exhibits. Activities will take place at Paramount Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, and other sites around the mountains. Our chapter will have a booth and need volunteers. See page 3 or [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org) for more info.

## TIME VALUE

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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.

### Chapter Officers:

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