PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Snowdy Dodson

As we enter 2018, I bring good news. CNPS has hired Nick Jensen as the Southern California Conservation Analyst. He will start on Jan. 2. Nick brings a wealth of experience to this new position. He recently defended his PhD dissertation at the Claremont Graduate University Department of Botany in which he presented a systematic study in Streptanthus (jewelflowers) resulting in the description of two new species at Tejon Ranch in southern California. Nick has served as the Rare Plant Program Director for CNPS and currently serves on the Rare Plant Program Committee. He has been active with organizing the CNPS Conservation Conferences since their inception in 2009. Nick has served as president of Southern California Botanists and continues to be active with that organization, and he is a Switzer Foundation Fellow. We are extremely fortunate to have him on board to help organize and advance CNPS conservation in southern California. We welcome his expertise. Please consider a donation to help fund his position: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/support/schwartz_fund.php

That’s the good news, and it is a great start. However, we have ended 2017 with destructive fires and other environmental threats. Regarding our fires, Richard Halsey of the California Chaparral Institute made some excellent points in his Dec. 8, 2017 Op/Ed piece in the LA Times
He rightly states that poor planning by cities and/or counties is allowing development in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and putting homeowners in harm’s way and firefighters at risk. That is a basic conservation battle that is ongoing in southern California and is a major issue that Nick Jensen (and many others) will be dealing with. These are battles that must be fought, and I urge you to be a partner. For the New Year, plan to get involved and give input to planning departments and commissions, city and county governments as well as to entities such as CalFire and local fire departments. Phone calls and letters are what matter. The answer to our housing problems is not to build ranchettes in the Santa Susana Mountains (or fill in the blank) but to build in already disturbed urban areas near transportation and services. For further insights into fire and the California landscape dust off your April 2010/July 2010 issue of Fremontia or read it online via the CNPS website: http://www.cnps.org/cnps/publications/fremontia/Fremontia_Vol38-No2-3.pdf

Best Wishes for the New Year!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

JANUARY 9, 2018 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULEVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO

LOS NOGALES NATIVE PLANT NURSERY
AT THE AUDUBON CENTER AT DEBS PARK

Presenter: Marcos Trinidad

This presentation will focus on the Los Nogales Native Plant Nursery. The history, present and future. What does it take to establish a native plant nursery run by volunteers and community partnership? Explore our methods for recruitment of volunteers, seed collection, plant propagation and community involvement in building bird friendly communities. Marcos Trinidad has been at the Audubon Center at Debs Park for nearly three years, and during that time has nurtured a growing community of volunteers, youth, and community organizations; implemented a facility and grounds improvement plan; and partnered with the National Parks Service.

FEBRUARY 13, 2018 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1008 11TH ST., SANTA MONICA

TREATING STORMWATER NATURALLY
AT THE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY

Presenter: Paul Costa

Boeing uses two methods for treating stormwater at Santa Susana: active and passive. This water management strategy is a hybrid approach that combines state-of-the-art and natural processes. The strategy utilizes an array of natural (passive) stormwater treatment technologies, including drainage culvert modifications, stream bank stabilization, revegetation of disturbed soil areas, placement of smaller-scale erosion control measures and the installation of a detention biofilter and bioswale. Stormwater is collected in a cistern, pumped to a sedimentation basin and allowed to flow into the adjacent biofilter, a natural ecosystem where the stormwater is filtered through soil, naturally occurring bacteria and native plants. Paul Costa has 26 years of experience with The Boeing Company in the field of environment, health & safety. Costa has a master’s degrees in environmental science and education.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see CNPS Programs on page 3.
RESTORATION
Coastal

Beach Restoration Volunteer Days
Malibu State Beaches
Every Sunday - 9am-noon
Beach restoration activities every Sunday at Malibu State Beaches. Come and enjoy a fabulous opportunity to get up close and personal with the pocket beaches. Call 213-481-8552 for info on which beach. (Leave your number S-L-O-W-L-Y and distinctly)" (This is Mike O’Brien’s ongoing war on invasives and coastal sage scrub restoration. Always included is a tour of the amazing diversity that you can find if you look.)

Temescal Canyon Pacific Palisades Native Plant Garden
Temescal Canyon Park
Saturdays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 24 9am-4pm
We’re just a few steps east of ~700 Temescal Canyon Road, Pacific Palisades, 90272 (between the PCH and Sunset Blvd., below Bowdoin St.). Community Service Credit. Contact Barbara Marinacci at barbara.marinacci@verizon.net or Michael G. Terry at michaelgterry@hotmail.com.

LAX Dunes Volunteer Days
El Segundo Dunes
Saturdays, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3 9am-noon
Help remove non-native plants. Free parking is available in the dunes. Enter through the gate across from Trask Triangle Park at the Trask and Waterview Streets intersection in Playa Del Rey, CA 90293. Please bring your own drinking water and snacks, and wear gloves, sun protection, closed-toe shoes, and long pants. Shelter and cold water refills will be provided. Please be on time and plan to stay until the end of the volunteer event as this is a secured area. Info: 818-782-9346.

All Restoration Activities - Rain Cancels

FIELD TRIPS

Birdwatching and Botanizing at the Beach Malibu Lagoon State Beach
February 11, 2018 (Sunday) – 8 am – 10 am
A look at beach and wetlands birds and flora along our coast. Parking for a fee in the beach lot or for free along Pacific Coast Hwy (PCH). Meet in the parking lot at the corner of Cross Creek Rd. and PCH in Malibu. Noted birder & photographer, Scott Logan of Wild Wings Backyard Nature in Sherman Oaks, will lead an easy birding walk for all levels. We will also identify the native plants around the restored lagoon. Bring binoculars, water, hat, good walking shoes, and layered clothing appropriate to the weather conditions. Contact Snowdy Dodson at 818-782-9346 or snowdy.dodson@csun.edu for further details. Rain cancels. This will be a joint field trip with the Orange County CNPS chapter.

RESTORATION
Inland

Silver Lake Restoration
Silver Lake Meadow Native Garden
Saturdays, Jan. 27 and Feb. 24 9am-11am
Help weed, water, mulch. Meet at the Garden at the north end of the Silver Lake Meadow Park near Armstrong Ave. & Silver Lake Blvd. Street parking on Silver Lake Blvd. Info: meadownativegarden@silverlakenc.org.

Calabasas Blue Habitat Restoration
Juan Bautista de Anza Park
Saturday, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3 9am-noon
Help restore native grasslands in the foothills west of Juan Bautista De Anza Park in Calabasas. Native grasses including purple needlegrass and creeping wildrye and flowering perennials and shrubs will be planted by volunteers under supervision by MRT tech crew from 9am-12pm. Please arrive by 8:45am and look for our group on the west side of the park. Parking is limited to street side spaces to avoid impacting parking for park visitors. Bring hat, water, snack, and sturdy shoes. Gloves and tools provided. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: www.mountainstrust.org/upcoming-events/(818) 591-1701 x203.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

February 6, 7pm
6117 Reseda Blvd. Suite H, Tarzana
(north of Oxnard/Topham, on west side of Reseda), one block from the Orange Line Busway on Reseda Blvd. Steve Hartman’s office. Join board members for dinner at 6:00pm at Garden Wok Restaurant at same address. Members welcome!

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM SATURDAY STROLLS IN THE NATURE GARDENS

Sat. Feb. 10 – 9:30-11:00 am
Free with Museum entrance Register via 213-763-3499

Nature Gardens Director, Carol Bornstein, will lead these walks on the 2nd Saturday of each month from February through July. The theme will be plant selection and appreciation with an emphasis on attracting garden wildlife.
CNPS PROGRAMS

TUES 1/9 7:30-9:30PM
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

LOS NOGALES NATIVE NURSERY
Presenter: Marcos Trinidad
(continued from page 1)
Born and raised in Northeast LA, Marcos has deep roots in the community. Prior to coming to Debs, he served as Director of Audubon Youth Environmental Stewards (a program of the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society), where he engaged and inspired community members to connect to nature and their community through restoration and volunteer science projects. He has also spent time as a Biology Technician for the U.S. Forest Service and an Urban Forester for organizations such as Northeast Trees and TreePeople. Marcos’ formal education is in geology and anthropology. Marcos is an avid birder, and frequently he leads trips to the LA River, Owens Lake, and the Salton Sea.

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. Refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00 pm at Maria’s Italian Kitchen, 16608 Ventura Blvd., Encino.

TUES 2/13 7:30-9:00PM
First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

TREATING STORMWATER
NATURALLY AT THE SANTA SUSANA FIELD LABORATORY
Presenter: Paul Costa
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. Refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 5:45 pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

FOR INFO ABOUT THE ABOVE PROGRAM, PLEASE SEE “UPCOMING PROGRAMS” ON FRONT PAGE.

GRATITUDE EXTENDED TO OUR 2017 PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

The Plant Sale Committee, Steve Hartman, Halli Mason, and Snowdy Dodson would like to thank everyone who made our Chapter’s Oct. 14 & 15 Native Plant Sale a success – our Chapter volunteers: Gwenn Albright, Valarie Barsky, Karin Benson, Julie Clark DeBlasio, Bob Hartman, David Hollombe, Cynthia Jackson, Christian Kuillkkaa, Sid Mendel, Mary Montes, Mike O’Brien, Beth & Brian Olson, Rita Sabbagh, Jaikarn Sandhu, Pushpinder Sandhu, Kittle Sarkissian, George Waddell, Christine Walker, Dorothy Walker, Nurit Whitney, J’free Y’but, and Henrietta and Bill Yuan; Student Volunteers from Pierce College, Loyola Marymount University, and Santa Monica College: Lu Chen, Ziting Chen, Roxanne Correa, Joey Farewell, Sadec Galvan, Yunting He, and Yingjin Xu. All were instrumental in getting the job done.

Special gratitude is extended to Lynn Stone, Paola Jaramillo and Carlos Cardona of the Sepulveda Garden Center for logistical support; to Bob Sussman of the Matilija Nursery for the high-quality plants; and S&S Seeds for the bulk seeds. Green Arrow/Green Thumb Nursery donated plastic trunk liners. A shout out goes to Henrietta and Bill Yuan for staffing the canteen. Added value was provided by displays by our environmental partners: Cold Creek Docents, San Fernando Valley Audubon & Audubon at Home, Sierra Club, LADWP, and the Valley Garden Club. Our Plant Sale provides excellent educational outreach to those seeking to transform the ecology in their home gardens, and as our main fund raiser it will help to provide the resources to carry on our mission in 2018.

NATIVE PLANT WEEK SYMPOSIUM, CHAPTER WILDFLOWER SHOW, AND PLANT SALE
April 7, 2018 (Saturday); 9am-4pm
Call for Cuttings
Our Chapter’s annual Native Plant Week event is scheduled for April 7 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. We will have speakers, a native plant and nature book sale and will as usual feature a wildflower show using cuttings from local gardens (not the wild) is always part of the festivities. We welcome California native wildflower cuttings from your home gardens. Contact Snowdy Dodson at 818-782-9346 or snowdy.dodson@csun.edu for details. The cuttings would need to be available for set up on Friday April 6.
Chapter Conservation Update
September – November 2017

Biodiversity Council – City of Los Angeles
Chapter delegate participated in planning meetings that are developing the infrastructure and goals of the Council. The framework is based on the successful Singapore Biodiversity Index.

Bluffs Preserve – Malibu
CNPS representative spoke at a City Council meeting about the significant environmental and geological conditions located at the site that is being considered for expansion to a municipal dog park and sports complex. CNPS botanists conducted six days of floristic surveys at the site in 2016, a severe drought year, and identified either Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area or rare vegetation alliances on at least 90% of undeveloped land at the site. Survey results were shared with the City, California Coastal Commission, community leaders, and posted on the chapter Website.

Expo Light Rail Line – City of Los Angeles
Chapter officer submitted written comments, attended and spoke at the City Planning Commission about planning changes along the Expo Line in Culver City, Palms, Westwood/Rancho Park, Sepulveda, and Bundy. Comments advocated for requiring 100% California native plants in landscapes in new developments in those areas especially in any public streetscapes. The current plans do not include any California native plants.

Harvard Westlake School – Studio City
The proposed expansion of the campus for sports and parking complexes was abandoned after rigorous community protest. The project was opposed by CNPS because it would have encroached rare California walnut woodland, coast live oak woodland, a well-documented east-west wildlife corridor through the Santa Monica Mountains, and sited in steep rocky hillsides. We support Harvard Westlake School for its decision to relocate the proposed project as redevelopment of an urban area in the flatlands of Studio City.

Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB) - Santa Monica Mountains & west San Fernando Valley
CNPS cooperated in the six-month trapping program for ISHB that ended late October. Several new infestations were identified. Most are associated with human activities such as mulching, green waste, tree trimming. Riparian or irrigated landscape trees are found to be the most vulnerable to the insect that has scores of native and non-native tree species hosts.

Liberty Canyon Wildlife Crossing - Agoura Hills
The chapter submitted comments to the Mitigated Negative Declaration associated with this project. CNPS supported the plan that would create a smaller onramp apron on the south side of the crossing to protect the existing riparian and oak woodland area. The chapter as well suggested removing and saving topsoil from the construction area, in order to protect and replace the indigenous seed bank after building activities are complete.

Protected Tree Ordinance – City of Los Angeles
CNPS has been working to uphold and enforce the Ordinance the last several years. Chapter tree experts have written letters, spoke at public hearings, and collaborate with community groups to ensure good planning and tree protections. The Los Angeles City Board of Public Works is working with developers to submit plans that incorporate existing protected trees into the design. CNPS advocates the economic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits of retaining protected native trees far outweigh their removal.

continued on page 5
continued from page 4

Santa Susana Field Lab – Santa Susana Mountains
Chapter expert on the area reviewed and commented on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Draft Environmental Impact Report for the site. CNPS advises the best management solution for any naturally occurring and anthropogenic induced chemicals to be left in situ at the site. Soil disturbance will change and significantly increase chemical, greenhouse gas, and carbon emissions. Vegetation removal will alter the composition and functionality of the vibrant existing habitat and wildlife corridor.

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) – Los Angeles County
An expert chapter representative is reviewing and commenting on proposed draft update of the program. SEAs are one of the most important land use planning tools in the county for protecting habitat, wildlife corridors, special species, and watersheds

'Ultimate Intersection' – Agoura Hills
The 'informal unofficial' scoping meeting was attended by a LA/SMM representative. The project will be located at the juncture of Kanan and Agoura Roads. It portends to significantly widen the intersection under the auspices of 'traffic flow and public safety.' The project will remove at least eight heritage oaks, which should be protected under the City of Agoura Hills Oak Ordinance.

West Village – Calabasas
CNPS submitted public comment following the scoping meeting for this project, which is a redux of the Canyon Oaks project that failed last year. West Village will be located at the eastern terminus of Agoura Road at Las Virgenes Road. Current proposed plans scale back commercial and increase mid-to-upper scale housing. Rare water and riparian habitat features are onsite, which the developer wants to include as part of developed recreation instead of being protected. Numerous old growth oaks will be removed and replaced with parkway oaks along Las Virgenes Road as mitigation. The oaks should be protected under the Calabasas Oak Tree Ordinance. A large ancient landslide will be 'stabilized,' to allow for more development on the parcel.

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION WINTER PLANT SALE
January 26 & 27, 2018 – 8:30 am to 4:30 pm
10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley, 91352
There's still time to get native plants into your gardens. TPF will have a wide selection of plants for sale along with seeds, books and gift items. http://theodorepayne.org/ for details.

SAVE THE DATES
Natural History Museum Naturefest – March 17 & 18
Theodore Payne Garden Tour – April 14 & 15

LA/SMM Chapter President Snowdy Dodson (left) and Kristen Wernick, CNPS Outreach and Horticulture Coordinator are seen at the final opening of the G2 Gallery in Venice. Kirsten is working with CNPS chapters to develop custom designed native landscaping brochures with local plant recommendations.

GARDEN AMBASSADOR PROGRAM
Are you passionate about California native gardening? Ready to inspire others? Become a CNPS Garden Ambassador! Share your garden, inspire your neighborhood, grow a community. You can share photographs of your garden through social media and contribute to the Garden Ambassador blogs. Contact our Chapter Horticulture Chair Mary Montes (mcmontes100@hotmail.com) for more information.
Chapter Election Results
Thanks to all of you who voted in our recent election and also to those who agreed to run for office. Our 2018 officers are:

Snowdy Dodson, President;
Halli Mason and Betsey Landis,
Co-Vice Presidents;
Beth Olson, Secretary;
Steve Hartman, Treasurer.

Chapter Officers:
President
Snowdy Dodson
(818) 782-9346
snowdy.dodson@csun.edu

Vice Presidents
Betsey Landis
(310) 472-0624
betseylandis@sprintmail.com

Halli Mason
(818) 345-6749
hmason@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Beth Olson
(818) 395-3720
macbeth.olson@gmail.com

Treasurer
Steven Hartman
(818) 881-3521
naturebase@aol.com