PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Snowdy Dodson

In March, I attended the CNPS quarterly Chapter Council meeting which was held in the Joshua Tree area. The meeting sessions focused on desert issues such as renewable energy, land conservation and land trusts. Of particular note for me was Robin Kobaly’s presentation on the ancient life forms of the desert. She outlined her documentation of the longevity and resilience of basic desert plants such as the creosote bush whose average age would be 600 years old for an individual plant and 10K years for a clonal ring; Joshua trees – 100-300 years; barrel cactus – 100-130 years. She lives and works in that desert area and advocates for saving these ancient survivors from destruction due to development; she urges builders to keep the plants in the landscape for their esthetic and ecological values. She also points out the hidden value and interconnectivity afforded by the plants’ mycorrhizae which form a vast and ancient underground network.

I think that we need such studies of our local native plants – how long have they lived and what have they survived to get to this point? They represent our genetic diversity and may help our ecology get through these drought years. Documenting their age might save them from being bulldozed. Stranger things have happened.

Speaking of strange events, if you read further down in this issue, you will find a notice of a goodbye party for one of our elder stateswomen. Yes, Jo Kitz who is a CNPS Fellow, Life Member, tireless weed warrior, native plant and open space preservationist is leaving southern California and her beloved Santa Monica Mountains to be closer to her family in Idaho. This will be an irreplaceable loss to our environmental community, but her legacy will live on in the places she helped to preserve and protect through her advocacy and unbelievable hard work. I have spent many hours with Jo weeding and planting, hiking, selling native plants and books, doing wildflower show set up, you name it; she is a calm and inspiring influence in my life. Thank you, Jo, and much good fortune to you in Idaho.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

MAY 12, 2015 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS - PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

Presenter: Steven Hartman

The Sepulveda Basin is the home of a Wildlife Area with an 11-acre lake, the Bull Creek Ecological Restoration Area, one of only 3 soft-bottomed portions of the Los Angeles River, Encino Creek, Woodley Creek, Hayvenhurst Creek, and Lake Balboa. The Sepulveda Basin was in the national news in December 2013 when the Army Corp of Engineers destroyed vast swaths of mature native vegetation under the guise of removing non-native plants. If you want to find out what happened and what are the current plans for restoring that area, attend this power point presentation by Steve Hartman, currently the chair of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee.

JUNE 9, 2015 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

TO BE ANNOUNCED

See LACNPS.ORG for details.

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

CELEBRATE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JO KITZ
May 19th, 2 – 4 p.m., Malibu Creek State Park
RSVP Required – call 818-591-1701 x2

Jo is retiring from her many years of service to CNPS and from her 26 year career with the Mountains Restoration Trust. Her contributions to restoration, land acquisition/preservation, environmental education/mentoring and native plant advocacy are phenomenal. She is leaving California for Idaho to be near family. You are invited to help celebrate this momentous event. Please bring photos, articles, personal stories in print (which will NOT be returned) for a memory book that will be assembled and given to her after the event. Donations in Jo’s name may be made to MRT at 3815 Old Topanga Canyon Rd., Calabasas, CA 91302 or via their website:

MAY 5 BIG DAY OF GIVING TO CNPS
This year CNPS is participating in the BIG Day of Giving - a local fundraising challenge on May 5th, when all online donations of $25 or more made to CNPS through www.bigdayofgiving.org can help CNPS win prizes ranging from $500 to $5,000. It’s a great way to get our entire organization some exposure to the public, while raising funds to help support our cause! Use this link to make a donation https://www.bigdayofgiving.org/ on May 5 and make a difference in California.
SAT 5/2  8:30am  
Malibu Creek State Park
Let's Garden in the Park  For at least the 10th year, we join thousands of volunteers throughout Los Angeles County making our surroundings more enjoyable and beautiful. Join us on another Big Sunday Weekend to help our native oak trees thrive in the park. All ages welcome. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-348-5910x2 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Call or email for directions. 3.5hrs.*

SAT 5/2  8:45am  
Cold Creek Valley Preserve
Be a Habitat Maker: Join the habitat repair team watering and weeding newly planted native plants that will energetically displace the invasive weeds that provide no food or shelter for the native animals and certainly do not please human sensibilities. Oak acorns, shrubs, penstemons, roses and bunch grasses that feed and shelter wildlife are awaiting your help. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Meet along the first 0.5 mile of Stunt Road after turning off Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. 3.5hrs *

SUN 5/17  8:30am  
Santa Monica Mountains
Weed Wars – an unending engagement started by CNPS in the early 1980s. In 2014, volunteers worked along Las Virgenes Creek creating a riparian zone. Oak trees, grasses, flowering plants and shrubs are planted to smother horehound, poison hemlock, mustard and a variety of invasive weeds. It’s exciting to see the change and speculate on what native critters now have a home, food, and shelter. Join us for a satisfying day of weeding and planting. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-348-5910 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Call or email for directions. 3.5hrs*

SAT 5/23  8:30am  
La Sierra Preserve
Restoration of a Hidden Gem. This restoration follows a trail that in wet years is a splendid wildflower show before reaching the restoration area. You won't find this beauty spot on any map, but after we meet at Peter Strauss Ranch the way will be shown. We'll weed and water recently planted native plants. Bring drinking water. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or MRT at 818-591-1701. From Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, turn onto Troutdale, then left on Mulholland Highway, then right into Peter Strauss parking lot. 3.5hrs*

SAT 5/23  9am-11 am  
Silver Lake Meadow Native Garden
Restoration with a 10:00 am talk by Nicholas Hummingbird, Indigenous Californian, native plant activist and conservationist. Help weed, water, mulch. Bring hat, water, weeding tools. Meet at the Garden at the north end of the Silver Lake Meadow Park near Armstrong Ave. & Silver Lake Blvd. Park on Silver Lake Blvd. Info: meadownativegarden@silverlakenc.org.

SUN 5/24  8:30am  
Topanga State Park
Lower Topanga Park Restoration Planting Bring water, and snack; wear sturdy footwear. Receive credit for community service. Directions: entrance is a few hundred feet from Pacific Coast Highway on Topanga Canyon Road. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or 818-348-5910. 3.5hrs*

SAT 5/30  9am–4pm  
Temescal Canyon Park
Temescal Canyon Pacific Palisades Native Plant Garden Restoration 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.

SAT 6/6  8:30am  
Cold Creek Valley Preserve
Be a Restorationist for a Day See May 2 write-up.

SAT 6/13  8:45am  
Malibu Creek State Park – 1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas
Where are the Oaks? There once was a valley where giant oaks held an ecosystem together. The trees were harvested for fuel and lumber. Since 1992, volunteers have enjoyed a wonderful day in the park planting and caring for oak trees and their understory plants. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs*

SUN 6/14  8:30am  
Santa Monica Mountains
Weed War See May 17 write-up.

SAT 6/20  8:30am  
La Sierra Preserve
Restoration of a Hidden Gem. See May 23 write-up.

SUN 6/21  8:30am  
Topanga State Park
Lower Topanga Park Restoration See May 24 write-up.

SUN 6/21  4pm-6pm  
Silver Lake Meadow Native Garden
Restoration with a talk at 4:00 pm by Jim Adams, USC Associate Professor of Pharmacology and trained Chumash Healer Help weed, water, mulch. Bring hat, water, weeding tools. Meet at the Garden at the north end of the Silver Lake Meadow Park near Armstrong Ave. & Silver Lake Blvd. Park on Silver Lake Blvd. Info: meadownativegarden@silverlakenc.org.

SAT 6/27  9am–4pm  
Temescal Canyon Park
Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon See write-up for May 30.

All Field Trips - Rain Cancels
* Co-sponsored by LA/SMM CNPS, Mountains Restoration Trust, and TreePeople.
CNPS PROGRAMS

TUES 5/12  7:30-9:30PM  
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino  
SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE AREAS - PAST PRESENT & FUTURE 
Presenter: Steven Hartman  
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 Tony Roma’s Restaurant, 16575 Ventura Blvd., Encino. (818-461-8400)

TUES 6/9  7:30-9:00PM  
First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica  
TO BE ANNOUNCED  
Presenter: TBA  
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 6:00 pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

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

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

June 2, 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!

Chapter Conservation Chair Appointed

Greetings from Julie Clark De Blasio, who will serve as the chapter’s conservation chair after years of the position vacancy. She brings a variety of knowledge and skills to the organization. Julie was employed as a botanist, agricultural researcher, policymaker, and educator prior to relocating to Southern California. She has worked most recently as an environmental scientist, wildland-urban interface and wildfire preparedness planner. Julie is also experienced with environmental review, permitting, biological surveying, and public process.

Julie believes her role with the chapter can best be supported by involvement and information imparted by chapter members. ‘Our chapter is only as strong as the participation of its membership. This holds true for the Conservation Committee. The geographic area of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains chapter is biologically and geologically diverse, rich, and hosts many habitat and plant community types. These, coupled with the many land uses, high density human population, and associated development pressures pose ongoing issues. In collaborative effort, I encourage all individual chapter members, associated groups, and agencies to share local information pertinent to conservation issues as it arises.’ Julie can be reached at: conservation@lacnps.org.

NATURE KNOWLEDGE WORKSHOP

June 12 – 14  
San Bernardino Mountains near Barton Flats  
Join the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Natural Science Section for a weekend of nature discovery from naturalists with expertise in bird and mammal identification, ecology, geology, entomology, and botany. Registration deadline May 31; $165 Sierra Club members; non-members, $185. Cost includes two nights lodging, six meals, workshops, and nature walks. To register contact brady818@gmail.com. Must be 12 years or older. For info contact cliff.mclean@verizon.att.net.

DONATION THANKS

Our CNPS Chapter would like to thank the Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains and Seashore http://allied-artists.com/ for their recent generous donation.

NEW NATIVE PLANT GARDEN SIGN AVAILABLE

If you are a gardener with native plants, this is the sign for you! Show off your commitment to California native plants by displaying a beautiful 9”x 12” full-color aluminum sign on a wall - or attach it to a garden stake. “Plant” the sign amongst your natives to let passers-by know that you are part of the growing community of ecologically advanced gardeners. The general public will benefit by seeing your native plants in a garden setting, and they will be encouraged to learn more by linking them to www.cnps.org/gardening where they can get information about our “3 Ps” of gardening: Plant local, Plant light, Plant well. This garden sign will generate neighborhood interest in the gardens that are bringing us all such benefits: great landscapes with wonderful habitat value, low water use, and conservation of native plants. Be the first on your block to own one today! Our Chapter will stock the signs for our events and they may be ordered via the CNPS online store for $36.
CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING
May 30 & 31 (Saturday and Sunday)
Quincy, California

CHAPTER EMAIL LIST
Please make sure to sign up for our chapter email list. Simply go to www.lacnps.org where you will see a window to enter your email address and name, then just click on subscribe. After you have confirmed through your personal email account that you do indeed want to be part of the chapter email list, you will start receiving emails reminding you of upcoming activities.

TIME VALUE

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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.