I’ve never done one of those holiday messages that people send out in December, however, this piece for the Toyon may take on that feel. Our chapter family is large and active, and we have a lot to brag about. On June 22, Environment Now honored the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter as one of the recipients of the “Top Achievements of the Environmental Community in Southern California” awards for 2006. The Chapter was one of several environmental organizations contributing to the completion of Sun Valley Park which is part of the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan. The Park has a system of catch basins and underground treatment and filtration systems to recharge many millions of gallons of rainwater back into the local aquifer each year and incorporates California native plants as part of the landscaping. [see photo below] The Environment Now web pages have a link to the full 2006 report www.environmentnow.org/publications.html.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007 — 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
ENCINO

BEETLES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Speaker: James N. Hogue

Beetles are the most diverse group of organisms in California and they exhibit a wide variety of interactions with the plants in our area. Individuals of the thousands of different beetle species with which we share our homes, gardens, and wild places act as herbivores, pollinators, decomposers, and as agents of pest control. Their mere presence even serves to add wonder and mystery to our lives as we encounter them during our daily activities. In the talk we will discuss these and other interactions as well as examine the diversity of beetle life of our area in the context of native vegetation.

James Hogue is the Manager of Biological Collections in the Department of Biology at California State University, Northridge, and Research Associate at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. James and Arthur Evans co-wrote Introduction to California Beetles (UC Press, 2004).

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

OCTOBER 9, 2007 — 7:30 - 9:30PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

COASTAL ZONE LANDSCAPING ISSUES
Speakers: Pam Emerson

Ms. Emerson, Supervisor for Planning and Regulation in Los Angeles County for the California Coastal Commission, will describe some of the Coastal Commission’s goals and limitations as a State agency mandated to protect specific resources in a limited area of the State. Ms. Emerson will describe efforts to work with local government, landowners, conservationists and CNPS to help developers use appropriate plants in new developments. As time allows, Ms. Emerson will show slides of projects with native plant installations--what worked and what didn’t.

There are a few crucial times when citizens can participate during the consideration of major projects, in monitoring projects during construction, and in adoption of local coastal plans. In Los Angeles County, for example, local coastal plans have not been adopted in unincorporated Malibu, Pacific Palisades, Venice, the Airport dunes, Torrance bluffs, or San Pedro.

The newly revised Recommended List for Landscaping with Native Plants in the Santa Monica Mountains will be available at the meeting.

PETROGLYPH TOUR Nov. 10, 2007

The Chapter will host a tour of Little Petroglyph Canyon on the Naval Air Weapons Station (NAWS) at China Lake, Calif. in the Mojave Desert. The Canyon is in the Coso Range which contains the highest concentration of rock art in the Western Hemisphere. These abraded images depict a vast array of designs abstract, animal, human, anthropomorphic. While viewing the rock art, you will also have a chance to see the flora and fauna of this remote region. Due to security restrictions at NAWS, we will be limited to 16 attendees who will be escorted by 2-3 trained tour leaders. Attendees must be citizens of the U.S.A. Each attendee will be asked for the following information in addition to their name: phone number, social security number, date of birth, place of birth. This information will be submitted to NAWS for review two weeks before the date of the trip. China Lake is near the town of Ridgecrest and is about 140 miles north of Los Angeles. We plan to begin the tour in the morning so it is recommended that you arrive the evening before. The tours will end at around 3 or 4 in the afternoon. No children under 10 yrs or pets are allowed. For further information about Little Petroglyph Canyon see the NAWS press release www.nawc.wm.mil/pao/pages/petroglyphs.htm. To sign up for the tour contact Snowdy Dodson ph: 818-782-9346 or email: snowdy.dodson@csun.edu Deadline for signing up is: Oct. 16, 2007.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE – by Snowdy Dodson, Chapter President

I’ve never done one of those holiday messages that people send out in December, however, this piece for the Toyon may take on that feel. Our chapter family is large and active, and we have a lot to brag about. On June 22, Environment Now honored the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter as one of the recipients of the “Top Achievements of the Environmental Community in Southern California” awards for 2006. The Chapter was one of several environmental organizations contributing to the completion of Sun Valley Park which is part of the Sun Valley Watershed Management Plan. The Park has a system of catch basins and underground treatment and filtration systems to recharge many millions of gallons of rainwater back into the local aquifer each year and incorporates California native plants as part of the landscaping. [see photo below] The Environment Now web pages have a link to the full 2006 report www.environmentnow.org/publications.html.
 Become a Docent Naturalist!
33rd annual docent training offered by Topanga Canyon Docents.
Learn the natural history of the Santa Monica Mountains and how to share this knowledge with others. Ten sessions led by notable experts will be held on Saturdays until Dec. 1. starting Saturday September 15 at 9:30 a.m. $50 fee includes membership and continuing learning opportunities. Information: Beverly Weil (818) 758 1964.

Southern California Botanists Symposium “Borderless Botany” on October 28
Every year the Southern California Botanists hold a symposium at The Ruby Gerontology Center at California State University, Fullerton. This year’s SCB Symposium focuses on current border issues in Southern California. Early Registration $35.00 (Due by October 5, 2007) - $45.00 at the door. Books, t-shirts and equipment will be available for purchase during the symposium. Symposium fee includes membership to SCB. More details and sign-up at www.socalbot.org

13th Annual Santa Clara River Rally Clean-up & Environmental Expo
Saturday, Sept. 15, 2007, 8:00 am – 11:00 am
Located in Santa Clarita at the future park site on Canyon View Dr./Calla Way. For a map and further information see the web site: www.santa-clarita.com/cityhall/cmo/environment/riverrally.asp or call (661) 286-4098. Come clean a portion of the Santa Clara River, the last natural river in southern California. Gloves, collection bags, and refreshments will be provided. Volunteers will receive a free commemorative gift for their participation. Visit the environmental expo to learn about how to make the environment a better place.

Conservation and Communication:
The Human Dimension in Invasive Plant Management
Save the Date! The 16th Annual Cal-IPC Symposium will be September 20-22 in San Diego, preceded by a Mapping Field Course on September 19. The annual Symposium brings together 350 land managers, researchers, and stewardship volunteers to share the latest in invasive plant biology and management. This year’s program will include invited speakers addressing how effective communication can help your weed programs. See www.cal-ipc.org.

Million Trees LA Initiative asks Angelenos to register their newly planted (since summer 2005) trees and make them count. If you’ve recently planted a California native tree and live in the City of Los Angeles, go to www.milliontreesla.org and click on the “report tree planting” link.

Designing California Native Gardens: the Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens at our Oct. 6 & 7 Chapter Plant Sale
(at the Sepulveda Garden Center) where one of the co-authors, Alrie Middlebrook, will be giving a talk at 11am on Saturday, Oct. 6. Neophyte birders may want to have a copy of Birds of the Los Angeles Region in their backpacks as it is just the right size and has lovely color photos. The bookstore will be open at the plant sale with the latest books. That's it for now. Enjoy the fall season and hope for rain.

Finally, I will close by mentioning some publications of interest to the CNPS community. The 32nd Southern California Botanists Symposium Proceedings entitled Flora and Ecology of the Santa Monica Mountains is now in print. Our Chapter bookstore has copies; please contact Jo Kitz to reserve one. For horticultural enthusiasts, please do not miss picking up Designing California Native Gardens: the Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens at our Oct. 6 & 7 Chapter Plant Sale
(at the Sepulveda Garden Center) where one of the co-authors, Alrie Middlebrook, will be giving a talk at 11am on Saturday, Oct. 6. Neophyte birders may want to have a copy of Birds of the Los Angeles Region in their backpacks as it is just the right size and has lovely color photos. The bookstore will be open at the plant sale with the latest books. That’s it for now. Enjoy the fall season and hope for rain.

PS. Please post the “Plant Sale” flyer at your local coffee shop or make copies and give to your neighbors. The flyer is also posted on our website, see Archives.
TUES 9/11 7:30-9:30pm  
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

**BEETLES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Speaker: James N. Hogue

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 Chevy’s Mexican Restaurant in Encino (16705 Ventura Blvd.)

TUES 10/9  7:30-9:30pm  
First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

**COASTAL ZONE**

**LANDSCAPING ISSUES**

Speaker: Pam Emerson

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.**

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**LA/SMM CHAPTER PLANT SALE**

**OCT 6 & 7**

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**BOARD MEETINGS**

**TUES 9/4** 7pm  
LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting  
at the home of Snowdy Dodson. 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys. Chapter members are invited! (818) 348-5910

**TUES 10/2** 7pm  
LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting  
at Jo Kitz's home, 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills. Chapter members are invited. (818) 348-5910

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**SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2007**

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**THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION EVENTS**

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley 91352 - (818) 768-1802  
Summer Hours: July 1st to October 15.  
Nursery Open: Thurs- Sat, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Closed: Sunday - Wednesday

**California Native Plant Horticulture - September 15**

With Theodore Payne Nursery Manager Louise Gonzalez  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

IF YOU'RE NEW TO THE WORLD OF GARDENING WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS or just need to REVIEW THE BASICS, this class this class is for you. Discover what a "native plant" is, why natives are valuable, plant communities, plant requirements, establishment, planting details, pruning, irrigation, maintenance and where to see and buy native plants. Recommend it for anyone just getting started with natives and/or as a precursor to our California Native Plant Garden Design Course. Please call TPF to register in advance: 818-768-1802. Seating is limited. Fee: $35 members, $45 nonmembers
**Plant Sale 2007**

Some time in the spring of 1983 I joined the California Native Plant Society after I had gone on a wildflower walk with Jo Kitz and Linda Hardie-Scott. That did it. I fell in love with the natives.

Little did I know that 2 or 3 years later after I volunteered to Margaret Huffman, then chair of the Annual Native Plant Sale, I would assume that chairmanship and hold that position ever since. A few years back Steve Hartman joined me as co-chair. This year, 2007, is my 20th anniversary. How did this happen? How can 20 years have gone by so quickly? For those of you whose history with CNPS goes back to the 80s and 90s, you might remember that our Plant Sales were then held at the North 40 at Calamigos Ranch, a beautiful location in the Santa Monica Mountains; but what a schlep! For almost 10 years now we have had the very conveniently located and lovely site of the Sepulveda Garden Center to hold our 2-day California Native Plant Sale.

This year's event will be on Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7. We will have a beautiful array of California native plants, seeds, shrubs and trees for sale. A special feature this year on both days will be two one-hour lectures, one in the morning, one in the afternoon.

On Saturday our morning talk (11:30am) will be given by Alrie Middlebrook, the San Jose-based native garden designer, artist, and sustainable landscaper, who recently released a highly anticipated book, *Designing California Native Gardens; The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens*, published by UC Press, that was co-authored with renowned field botanist Dr. Glenn Keator. Alrie is recognized as a leader in California native gardening, and is a committed advocate and practitioner of ecology-based landscaping. She has designed and built over 150 California native gardens. Her talk will focus on the native garden community in the Los Angeles vicinity, and the steps that can be taken in the garden to stop global warming.

At 2:00 pm on Saturday, chapter members and avid gardeners Chris and Trish Meyer will present *Wildscaping Your Garden*. Learn how to use California’s native plants and compatible Southwestern and Mediterranean species to achieve a beautiful garden that’s a magnet for birds while also being water conserving and low-maintenance. Come hear and see how the Meyers converted what used to be an ivy-covered hillside garden in Sherman Oaks to a wildlife habitat for birds and butterflies. It’s a true case of growing it and they will come; Chris and Trish have spotted over 50 different birds from hummingbirds to hawks in their own single-family backyard habitat site. Using digital photographs and video, they will share the secrets to their success, including designing a water feature built especially for the birds. They will also provide a list of desirable plants.

On Sunday, at 11:00 am Gabi and Cliff McLean of the San Gabriel Mountains chapter of CNPS will give their excellent presentation on how they converted their lawn to native plants.

There will be one more talk on Sunday afternoon at 1:00 pm about the “Do’s and Don’ts of Native Plant Gardening.”

There will be many new books in the book store, T-shirts, note cards, free educational material for teachers and other interested folks, participation of docent groups, and State and National Park Service (not confirmed yet).

As always, any plant purchase in multiples of 3 and/or over $100.00 will be discounted. And as an incentive to join the CA Native Plant Society, we will give any new member the choice of a free plant or a “Grandmother Oak” book.

The time to consider natives is ripe. Are lawns really ‘Public enemy No. 1?’ (L.A. Times, Home, Thursday, July 5, 2007). To quote from the Times: “The rich palette of native plants makes for the most competitive alternative yet to the classic lawn.” Perhaps you would like to consider a small corner in your garden and try your luck with the natives? Perhaps you are tired of your agapanthus and raphiolepis and want to replace them with one of the native iris and ceanothus species?

And of course, we need your help. **Can you volunteer any time to help with the plant sale?** You don't have to know native plants. There are lots of tasks which require absolutely no knowledge of plants or gardening with natives. Please call (818) 881-3607 to volunteer.

Hope to see you at the Sale on October 6 and/or 7.

Halli Mason

**CHAPTER BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS REQUESTED**

We are seeking candidates for offices on the chapter board. The term of office is one year. You may nominate yourself or be nominated by another chapter member (with your permission) for the office of president, chapter delegate, vice president, secretary or treasurer of the chapter board of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter. Chapter officers are expected to attend monthly meetings, usually held on the first Tuesday of the month. In addition to the monthly meetings the chapter delegate is expected to attend four statewide CNPS chapter council meetings held at various locations around the state.

The qualifications are:

1. Candidates must affirm they are members in good standing of Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains (LA/SMM) Chapter – that their dues are paid up.
2. Candidates must be active or have been active in one or more of LA/SMM Chapter’s recognized or scheduled programs and projects in education, plant science, conservation, field trips, events, publication and outreach.
3. Nomination letters and e-mails must contain your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a short statement about your CNPS activities and why you want to serve on the LA/SMM Chapter Board.
4. Nomination letters must be mailed to the CNPS Nominating Committee, 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406 or e-mailed to lacnps@lacnps.org by the deadline of October 12, 2007.

**NOTE:** If you would like to join our board but not be an officer, you are welcome to attend any chapter board meeting (see page 3 inside) and help us in our many interesting activities!
**Los Angeles River Improvement Overlay District**

The Los Angeles City Council recently proposed establishing the Los Angeles River Improvement Overlay (RIO) District, extending from Topanga Canyon Blvd., along the river which flows out of the City of L.A. at 26th Street in the Boyle Heights area. The RIO is applicable to that area which is roughly defined as between one block to a one-half mile on either side of the River. The information provided here is from the draft proposal that is currently being circulated and the City is requesting public comments. Hearings are expected to start in late September. To find out more, visit the website www.lariver.org.

The RIO consists of three components:

Requirements for private property and publicly owned facilities to comply with an established threshold of points in each of three design categories – watershed, urban design and mobility alternatives.

Guidelines for public rights of way improvements outlines design standards to be applied as street improvements that are undertaken as a result of major development projects and/or capital expenditures.

Public parking strategies outlines suggestions for the management and accommodation of future parking demand.

The RIO has its origins in the urban design goals and principles established in the Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan (LARRMP) adopted by the City Council earlier this year. The City’s vision for the LA River emphasizes a livable, walkable, and sustainable community that is oriented to the River and the surrounding streets. The LARRMP supports the concept of a River Greenway and imagines the River as part of a future citywide park system.

Some of the goals and objectives of the RIO are to:

- Contribute to the environmental and ecological health of the River.
- Conserve more water than a “traditional” lawn gardens.
- Encourage natural drainage functions: allow water to percolate underground to replenish aquifers, filter out suspended solids, remove pollutants and slow down flows through vegetation.
- Allow for the biofiltration of sediments and pollutants, reduce the amounts of untreated runoff entering the River and tributaries during average storms, and increase the presence of nature with the community.

Increase the amount and ecological value of public open space.

The definition of a project in the RIO applies to the erection, construction, addition to, or exterior structural alteration of any building or structure within the RIO. All projects within the RIO shall obtain the requisite number of points. The point system is intended to encourage River sensitive development – allowing project applicants the flexibility to choose from a wide variety of options – and providing tangible performance measures for the City to ensure long-term responsible River management and planning.

Points shall be obtained from three categories: watershed, building design and mobility. The points will vary by land use designation and/or building type and are broadly defined as Single Family (10 points) and Multi-family, Commercial, Manufacturing, and Publicly Owned Facilities (20 points each).

What is exciting about this program is that it incorporates many of the ideals that CNPS has promoted in encouraging the use of native plants and natural landscaping. Below are some of the requirements and the points awarded related to plantings.

- Design driveways, parking areas, and hardscape spaces to be multifunctional, incorporating water detention, retention, filtration or runoff to a bioswale and/or cistern and/or other water collection system. (3)
- Divert roof runoff into rain gardens or other on-site areas that would prevent flows from exiting the site. (2)
- Design and install a green roof. (4)
- To the extent feasible, while maintaining flood protection, daylight that portion of a stream that flows through the property (5), or remove the concrete from sides and/or bottom of a stream that flows through the property (5).

Select indigenous native plants as per the County’s LA River Master Plan Landscape Guidelines and Plant Palettes. (5) (www.ladpw.org).

Consult a planting expert to arrange and group native plants into naturalized patterns that reflect their cultural needs, adaptations, and companion species. (5)

In addition, “Green” streets are being encouraged to treat and infiltrate stormwater, increase shade canopy and increase landscaping to support native habitat. (5)

All in all its nice to see such a visionary plan...one wonders why such a point system for new construction should not be implemented throughout Los Angeles (not just along the LA River).

by Steven L. Hartman

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**A Pacific Horticulture Symposium**

**Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies V: Lessons In Our Gardens - San Diego**

**September 29-30, 2007**

**Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas, California**

Enjoy tours & talks by experts in six of San Diego’s finest gardens. Learn how easy it is to create gorgeous gardens thriving in harmony with your climate. See how you can have a beautiful landscape with lower water bill. Discount early registration fee of $129 includes: garden tours & talks, current issue of *Garden Design* magazine, two alfresco lunches, evening meet & mingle reception, one hardcover book, entry to Quail Botanical Gardens. Discount available for *Pacific Horticulture* subscribers and others. Questions: skies@sdhortsoc.org or (760) 295-7089
LA/SMM CHAPTER
PLANT SALE
OCT 6 & 7

Volunteer to help!
(818) 881-3706

Chapter Officers:

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

Vice Presidents
Jo Kitz
(818) 348-5910
jkitz@mountainstrust.org

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

Secretary
Henrietta Yuan
(323) 463-1385
henriettay@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Steven Hartman
(818) 881-3706
naturebase@aol.com

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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.