PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Snowdy Dodson
Greetings and here's wishing for a prosperous and rainy 2014 winter. I trust that your wildflower seeds are sown and your fall plant sale purchases are in the ground. I’ve put in a monardella and a toyon and a couple of milkweeds and scattered some California poppy seeds. A friend of mine came over and pruned one of my black sages – the big one in the front yard that I usually decorate with holiday bulbs in a feeble attempt to compete with the inflated Santas and Vegas lights in my neighborhood. Lest you start bugging me for a referral to engage her pruning skills, let me warn you that she did what I’ll call a “full-body prune” – she tripped over the plant, landed on it full force and broke it off at the ground. It was dark and there may have been some alcohol involved. She was OK with a few bruises and a wrenched shoulder, but the plant seemed to be toast – it was large and bushy and actually cushioned her fall. You know that you are a native plant geek when you honestly are more concerned about the lost plant than whether a friend has broken or sprained something. First thought – oh, no, my beautiful sage I grew from seed, second thought for my friend – are you OK? third thought – maybe I can replace it with that Cleveland sage I've been wanting for a while. In the cold light of day, we found that though the main branch of the sage was history, there was a viable branch sticking up from the plant base. Now it will become an experiment in native plant regeneration; will it act as if it went through a fire and do a re-sprout? I'm hoping for the best, but it certainly will not be sporting holiday decorations in the near future.

On a more serious note it seems like there are always issues that need our collective attention and comments, and this year is no exception. On Dec. 5, 2013, the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning announced the public release of Draft 4 of the Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Ordinance. This draft has been reorganized and introduces several new concepts, and portions have been changed to increase specificity of standards and to address comments raised during the comment for Draft 3 last year. The agency also released the SEA Program Guide and Comment Matrix which responds to comments received on Draft 3 and to see these materials see the SEA Ordinance webpage. As a reminder, the Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program is a component of the Los Angeles County General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element. SEAs are ecologically important land and water systems that support valuable habitat for plants and animals, often integral to the preservation of rare, threatened or endangered species and the conservation of biological diversity in the County. While SEAs are not preserves, they are areas where the County deems it important to facilitate a balance between development and resource conservation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

JANUARY 14, 2014 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO

NATIVE CALIFORNIA BULBS
FOR THE GARDEN
Presenter: John Wickham
California has a beautiful array of native geophytes, ephemeral wild flowers that are challenging and worthwhile additions to the garden. There are dozens of species, subspecies, and cultivars of California native bulbs. Many are highly regarded additions to the garden, but careful attention is needed to ensure success with many of them. Planting with an eye toward native plant ecologies, careful watering, and patience are necessary to find success with these plants. This presentation will review horticultural requirements for these plants and selections suited for southern California. Potted bulbs from the Theodore Payne Nursery will be available for sale as well.

FEBRUARY 11, 2014 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

THE ECOLOGY OF CHAPARRAL:
ADAPTATIONS TO DROUGHT, WILDFIRE, AND FREEZING
Presenter: Dr. Stephen Davis
Much of Davis’s research centers on plant physiological ecology, including adaptations of chaparral shrubs to wildfire, drought, and freezing. Dr. Davis and his colleagues have received numerous grants to support their Summer Undergraduate Research in Biology program at Pepperdine University, with nearly continuous NSF funding for the last 24 years. The results of his research have been published in such journals as Nature, Ecology, The American Journal of Botany, Plant Cell and Environment, Biological Journal of the Linnaean Society, and the International Journal of Plant Science.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see CNPS Programs on page 3.
HIKES AND RESTORATION - JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2014

SAT 1/11  8:45am
Cold Creek Valley Preserve
Be a Restorationist for a Day: Join the habitat repair team planting 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 trees, 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 1/12  8:45am
Malibu Creek State Park
Weed Wars – an unending engagement started by CNPS in the early 1980s to wrestle with non-native invasive species. We clear the land and during the winter planting season in the Mediterranean ecosystem, we plant native species. We revisit previous planting sites, weed and plant. It’s exciting to see the growth and speculate on what native critters now have a home, food, and shelter as the sites once a weed field becomes dynamically functional. 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 1/25  8:30am
La Sierra Preserve
Restoration of a Hidden Gem. You won’t find this beauty spot on any map, but after we meet at Peter Strauss Ranch the way will be shown. Unseemly land uses created great swaths of invasive weeds but have also created the perfect site for an endangered, very small sunflower. Newly planted natives need you to help them through their first years. Bring water. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or Jo 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 1/25  9am–4pm
Temescal Canyon Park
Restoration of a Hidden Gem. See Jan. 25 write-up.

SUN 1/26  8:30am
Topanga State Park
Lower Topanga Park Restoration Planting Native plants are working hard to bring a natural eco-balance to the lower Topanga Creek area of the park. But they need a boost – we’ll join TreePeople to plant natives after those noxious weeds are removed!! 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 *

Geology Tour Rescheduled for January 26, 2014 (Sunday)
After 8:30 AM meeting at King Gillette Ranch, this all-day geology tour will start with a morning hike near Calabasas Peak, to view sedimentary rocks formed when Southern California was an eroding volcanic chain. We’ll return to Gillette Ranch for lunch and to discuss the geologic history of California; then during the afternoon, we’ll caravan west to Kanan Dune Road and south to the coast, stopping at exposures that record the early development of the San Andreas Fault. For more information and to enroll, send email message to trip leader Bill Neill at bgnell@earthlink.net.

Physical Difficulty: The morning hike is about 1.3 mile roundtrip on a steep graded dirt road; the afternoon tour includes a stairway to the beach and walking 1200 feet on firm beach sand. Time: Approx. 7 hours. Rain or another Federal shutdown will cancel.

SAT 2/1  8:45am
Cold Creek Valley Preserve
Be a Restorationist for a Day See Jan. 11 write-up.

SUN 2/2  8:30am
La Sierra Preserve
Restoration of a Hidden Gem. See Jan. 25 write-up

SAT 2/22  9am–4pm
Temescal Canyon Park
Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon
See write-up for Jan 25.

SUN 2/23  8:30am
Topanga State Park
Lower Topanga Park Restoration See Jan. 26 write-up.

SUN 2/23  9:30am-12:00pm
Santa Monica Mountains
Featuring Fungus Join Florence Nishida on an amble to find seasonal fungus (maybe mushrooms too), and a spring flower or two. Bring water, snack/lunch, wax paper, basket and a long, sharp tool to pry the mushroom out of the soil without cutting its stem (Florence uses a metal tent stake). To register call 818-348-5910 or 818-881-3706 or send an email to lacnps@lacnps.org; once location is known we will get back to you and also post location on www.lacnps.org. Parking fee. Rain cancels. 2.5hrs

* Co-sponsored by LA/SMM CNPS, Mountains Restoration Trust, and TreePeople.

All Field Trips - Rain Cancels
TUES 1/14 7:30-9:30PM

First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

**NATIVE CALIFORNIA BULBS FOR THE GARDEN**

Presenter: John Wickham

John Wickham is past president of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants. He established and curates the Foundation's bulb collection.

**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 2/11 7:30-9:00PM

First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

**THE ECOLOGY OF CHAPPARRAL**

Presenter: Dr. Stephen Davis

Dr. Stephen Davis earned his Ph.D. in 1974 from Texas A&M University after which he joined the faculty at Pepperdine University in Malibu. He has been a visiting scholar at Stanford University, UCLA, University of Utah, and Baylor University. Dr. Davis is Distinguished Professor of Biology at Pepperdine University. He was selected as a Harriet and Charles Luckman Distinguished Teaching Fellow at Pepperdine University, Teacher of the Year at Pepperdine University, and most recently received an internationally competitive award from Baylor University: the Robert Foster Cherry Award for Great Teaching.

**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.

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**President’s Message**

Continued from page 1

Development activities in the SEAs are reviewed closely in order to conserve fragile resources such as streams, oak woodlands and threatened or endangered species and their habitat. Comments to the Draft 4 are due on or before Feb. 3, 2014 to Emma Howard, email: ehoward@planning.lacounty.gov, via post: LA County Dept. of Regional Planning, 320 W. Temple St. Rm 1354, LA, 90012.

In Nov. the USDA Forest Service announced the release of the “Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final SEIS), Southern California National Forests Land Management Plan (LMP) Amendment” for the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests. The Final SEIS incorporates the changes made in response to comments on the Draft SEIS, including an additional land use zone alternative. With that change, the Final SEIS includes an evaluation of four land use zone alternatives, and three monitoring alternatives. A copy of the document is available on the project website at: http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php?project=35130. The next step for the proposed plan amendment is the pre-decisional objection process which will occur in early 2014. Releasing the Final SEIS now gives the public additional time for its review. This amendment of the LMP is a result of a settlement agreement in Jan. 2011 as a remedy of two lawsuits challenging the revised LMPs against the USDA by the California Resources Agency and the Center for Biological Diversity. These suits were aimed at creating more wilderness (80K acres) and back country non-motorized areas in the Los Padres National Forest (300K acres) with the view of benefiting watershed, wildlife, and passive recreation. Fire suppression would be less mechanized and no change expected for grazing. We will keep the Chapter informed concerning the possible responses to this document as we learn more from the agency.

On a more local and urban level, Charles Miller of the Palms Neighborhood Council writes: “After initially giving lip service to the idea of using natives for landscaping on the Crenshaw Boulevard Streetscape Plan (which will surround the corridor of the forthcoming Crenshaw Line light rail project), the City of LA has let us down, reverting to pretty much a carbon copy of the resource-wasting landscaping originally planned for Expo Phase Two. If you have time, please go to http://www.latnp.org/crenshawline/crenshaw-draft-plan/ and submit a comment form extolling the virtues of native landscaping and asking the City to update its practices to a sustainable model with native landscaping, consistent with its own stated position and the written goals of the County MTA.” There is time for us all to respond to these plans and get them modified to be more water-wise and native plant friendly. Thanks, everyone, for doing all that you do to make southern California a more native place.

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**CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS**

January 7 and February 4, 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!
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NATIVE PLANTS FEATURED AT CLCA INDUSTRY SHOW**

**JAN. 29-30**

The California Landscape Contractors Assn. (CLCA) will highlight California native plants during the industry show on Jan. 29-30, 2014 at the LA Convention Center where attendees will play native plant bingo for a chance to win cash and prizes. The bingo game will be organized by the CNPS LA/SMM Chapter, Theodore Payne Foundation, and Norman’s Nursery. Exhibit hall registration for the show is free if you pre-register or $5 at the door; there are added fees for attendance at workshops and classes. This show is a must see for those in the trade and of interest to the dedicated home landscaper. See the show website for further details and to register: http://www.clca.org/lis/.

**WILDFLOWERING LA**

A project by artist Fritz Haeg had land owners sowing native wildflower seed in 50 highly visible sites throughout LA County in fall 2013. The project presented by LAND (Los Angeles Nomadic Division) in partnership with Theodore Payne Foundation expects to bring a wild and beautiful seasonal landscape to open plots of land in spring 2014 culminating in an exhibition and celebration. See http://wildflowering.fritzhaeg.com/ for photos and further details.

**BART O’BRIEN RELOCATES TO BAY AREA**

Well-known author, speaker, and native plant expert, Bart O’Brien, has moved to Berkeley to become the Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Park. Bart worked at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for over 20 years and has been an invaluable resource for the southern California native plant community. We are sorry to see him move north but wish him all the best in his new position. Emily Green has written a lovely tribute to Bart on her blog: http://chanceofrain.com/2013/11/in-praise-of-bart-obrien/.

**CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING**

**March 8–9**

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Early March is a perfect time of the year to visit Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and on March 8 and 9, the local CNPS chapters will be hosting the quarterly Chapter Council meeting at the Garden. If you would like to carpool there please leave your name and phone number (or email) at the chapter phone 818-881-3706 or to lacnps@lacnps.org.

**THEODORE PAYNE NATIVE FOUNDATION GARDEN TOUR**

**Sat. & Sun. April 5 & 6, 10 am - 5 pm**

A two-day self-guided tour through 35+ gardens in the greater LA area that feature California native plants and the wildlife they thrive on as well as water-saving landscaping practices. Tickets are $15 per TPF members; $20 non-members. See the Foundation website to purchase tickets. http://store.theodorepayne.org/product/CLASS/E_GT2014.html

**THANKS TO 2013 PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS**

Our Oct. 26 & 27 Chapter Plant Sale was a tremendous success thanks to our talented and hard-working volunteers. The Plant Sale Committee, Steve Hartman, Halli Mason, and Snowdy Dodson, would like you to join us in thanking the following participants for their superlative service this year: Doug Allan, Karin Benson, David Ecklund, Rick Feldman, Leslie Hartman, David Hollombe, Cynthia Jackson, Christian Kii’llkkaa, Jo Kitz, Mary Montes, Grace Murayama, Kittie Sarkisian, Barbara Turner, Christine Walker, and Henrietta and Bill Yuan.

Also, many thanks to the Santa Monica City College students from the Sustainable Works Program and the biology class of Professor Alexandra Tower: Derek Allison, April Blanco, Qingxuan Fei, James Guo, Minerva Lucero, Matthew Nessly, Amy Shim and Jana W. T.

Special recognition is extended to Vel Lauterio, Paola Jaramillo, and Carlos Cardona of the Sepulveda Garden Center for logistical support; and to Bob Sussman of the Matilija Nursery for the high quality plants and Theodore Payne Foundation for the seed packets. Many thanks to our speakers: Greg Rubin, Lucy Warren, and Carol Bornstein for their excellent, informative presentations.

Once again our Plant Sale provided excellent educational outreach to those seeking to make a change in their home gardens. This event is our main fund raiser and will help to provide the resources to carry on our wonderful 2014 programming.

**NATIVE PLANT WEEK SYMPOSIUM, CHAPTER WILDFLOWER SHOW, AND PLANT SALE**

**April 19, 2014 (Saturday); 9am-4pm**

Save the Date and Call for Cuttings

Our CNPS Chapter’s annual Wildflower Show is scheduled for April 19 at the Sepulveda Garden Center in conjunction with a simultaneous Native Plant Week Symposium, plant and book sale. The Symposium will feature speakers throughout the day. Plants for sale will be available courtesy of our co-sponsor the Theodore Payne Foundation. We welcome California native wildflower cuttings from your home gardens.

Contact Snowdy Dodson via email: snowdy.dodson@csun.edu or phone: 818-782-9346 for details. The cuttings need to be available for set up on Friday, April 18.
Hidden Creeks Estates is a housing development proposed by a Texas company, Forestar Real Estate Group, Inc., for a wildland plateau located where the northern edge of the San Fernando Valley merges with the Santa Susana Mountains. Construction plans include the excavation of a whopping 6.5 million cubic yards of soil, removal of 456 trees, and massive re-contouring of the terrain to support a gated community of 188 luxury homes. In addition, the developers have asked the Los Angeles Planning Commission to recommend that this land be annexed to the City of Los Angeles. They made this highly unusual request because the 150 acre property currently sits in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is zoned for only 30 homes. They have discovered that constructing just 30 homes would not be profitable because the ground at the site is too unstable to develop as-is. It is an old landslide and significant costs associated with grading must be incurred if any construction is to be possible there. Rather than cut their losses and move on from this foolish investment to other more prudent ventures, Forestar wants to offset the expense of land stabilization by constructing a large number of exclusive and pricey houses. To accomplish this, they have imported some Texas political maneuvers to Los Angeles.

The property should remain as wild open space. It is important for habitat connectivity because it abuts existing preserved public lands: Michael D. Antonovich Regional Park and the Mountains Recreational and Conservation Authority. Two watercourses, Browns Creek and Mormon Creek, border the property and this year-round water is a critical resource in an area that goes many months without rainfall. These two streams are also historically important elements of the natural watershed of the Los Angeles River. If the Hidden Creeks Estates development proceeds as-planned, the massive amount of grading to be done prior to construction will alter creek flows, damage water quality, and disrupt hydrological processes. The larger off-site environment will pay the price. The streamside corridors of willows, mulefat, and cottonwoods will be impacted and birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians will in turn be negatively affected. The development will also destroy existing coastal sage scrub (a plant community that is quintessentially Southern Californian and continually threatened by urban development) along with nice patches of purple needle grass, California walnut and coast live oak. The central plateau area has been labeled as “non-native grassland” by the developer. However, this description ignores the likelihood that a buried seedbank of native annual wildflowers coexists with the non-native grasses.

Forestar's development plans include a suburban park to be donated to the City for public use. But, how likely is it that anyone from the larger community (say, Pacoima, Canoga Park or?) will travel to a park in this exclusive neighborhood to have a picnic or to play ball? The developers also brag about an equestrian center, horse trails, and hiking trails that also will be constructed. But again, who will actually benefit from these amenities? Will access to the hiking trails be readily apparent to outsiders? Or will trailheads be strategically positioned to limit access (much like many beach rights-of-way in Malibu)? And, will privileged homeowners use the public hiking trails for dog-walking, leaving a minefield of poop in their wake for everyone else to maneuver through (think Caballero Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains)? The Hidden Creeks Estates development will significantly erode environmental values in the Santa Susana Mountains. I urge CNPS members to take a stand against this abomination.

**CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference Offers Registration Rebates to Volunteers**

The CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference: 50 years of progress and promise will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton, San Jose, January 13-17. We have lots of opportunities for participation in this high energy event. Help make this an event to remember by lending your talents. Hundreds of volunteers make this a great party. If you join a planning committee and put in 32 hours over the year, you may ask for a full rebate; smaller commitments yield partial rebates. Committees open include: Outreach, Volunteer Coordinators, Arts, Silent Auction Committees. Contact Josie Crawford for more information at jcrawford@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677x205.

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**David MacNeille Brown 1934-2013**

David Brown, long-time member of our Chapter, passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 12, 2013. David wrote many conservation letters on behalf of our chapter, and also contributed to the Toyon. For over 40 years he taught political science and history at L.A. Valley College. During the 1970s and early 1980s he lobbied the State Legislature and Congress to establish several parks in the rapidly developing Santa Monica Mountains. His efforts, along with dozens of others, resulted in the formation of Malibu Creek State Park and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. From the late 1980’s and on David was involved in land use issues in Malibu, Agoura, and Calabasas where he served on the planning commission. David was a valuable member of CNPS and the environmental community.
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 2014 officers are: Snowdy Dodson, President; Jo Kitz, and Halli Mason, Co-Vice Presidents; Henrietta Yuan, Secretary; Steve Hartman, Treasurer; Betsey Landis, Chapter Council Delegate.

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.