CO-PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Snowdy Dodson

Greetings for 2020. Where did 2019 go? Seems like déjà vu all over again because as I review my message for the Jan./Feb. 2019 Toyon, I could write the same words only for different devastating fires. In the past few months the CNPS state office published a new edition of the Fire Recovery Guide that covers the entire state and is available for download via links on this page: https://www.cnps.org/give/priority-initiatives/fire-recovery. CNPS printed an initial run of 15,000 copies of the print guide for distribution to agencies and NGOs. Bill Neill, our Chapter Co-President, submitted a grant request to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl asking for funding to print more of the Recovery Guide for our area members, however, we will not hear about the funding until early 2020. We will keep you posted. We do have copies of the Guide on hand. Let us know if you need a print copy. Our Jan. 14 program by Cassy Aoyagi will focus on “Firesafe, Native Landscaping.” Please see the details here on page one. As we move forward from these devastating fires, we need to take a proactive approach. Take some time to review the Fire Recovery Guide, attend Cassy’s presentation, and encourage elected officials and agencies to refrain from destroying native landscape as that will not prevent more damaging fires. Education about fire dynamics is our only approach to a better future. My personal wish.belief is that we should devote maximum resources into getting powerlines underground and removing invasive annual weeds such as grasses and mustard from wildlands. Next, we must make sure our elected officials at all levels, do not approve new building in the wildland urban interface (WUI) and discourage those who wish to rebuild after they have been burned out in the WUI. Otherwise, we will keep up this never-ending cycle of frequent burns leading to type conversion of our endangered native ecosystems.

On another subject, I think it is nearing time for our Chapter to transition to an emailed newsletter. Currently we spend around $3500/year on printing and mailing the Toyon but printing and mailing costs continue to rise while our income is stable. That $3500 could be used to continue our conservation and restoration activities at the same level and perhaps add in scholarship awards for local college student research. Most groups I belong to have converted to email newsletters. Let me know how you feel about such a move. Our Chapter Board has begun this discussion and looking to move forward over the next year. Take care and hope to see you at one of our events soon.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

JANUARY 14, 2020 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 Magnolia Blvd. ENCINO

FIRE-SAFE, NATIVE LANDSCAPING
Presented by Cassy Aoyagi

Our understanding of what puts homes and properties in danger is evolving. We now know that flying embers are most often responsible for home ignition and that homes can burn while nearby foliage remains intact. We also know that steps we took to save water in drought have made us more vulnerable to fire, flooding and mudslides. So where do we go from here? Cassy Aoyagi will discuss the 10 steps we can take in our gardens to protect our properties and LA.

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FEBRUARY 11, 2020 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

THE REGROWTH OF A KELP FOREST -
PALOS VERDES KELP RESTORATION PROJECT
Presenter: Heather Burdick

This program will discuss a six-year project restoring and studying kelp forest in the ocean along the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Dive teams have spent over 8,000 hours underwater, clearing 3.4 million excess purple urchins from barren ocean bottom, restoring 50 acres of thriving kelp forests. Healthy kelp forests, like our land-based native forests, provide functioning ecosystems with great potential for addressing climate change stressors. Future research will explore the dynamic of kelp restoration within the context of potential carbon sequestration and shoreline protection, both key adaptational elements to climate change and sea level rise.

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

The N/E/X/T/Garden in Pacific Palisades
The Native Plant Garden in the City of L.A.'s Temescal Canyon Park

Saturdays, Jan. 25 and Feb. 29  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 Michael G. Terry at michaelgterry@hotmail.com.

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve
Van Nuys
Tuesdays and Thursdays  Dawn - 9:30am
Help remove non-native plants. Contact Steve Hartman at naturebase@aol.com to sign up and get meeting place details. www.sepulvedabasinwildlife.org

FIELDTRIP

Birdwatching and Botanizing at the Beach Malibu Lagoon State Beach
February 9, 2020 (Sunday) – 8 am – 10 am
Learn about 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 https://www.wildwingsla.com/ will lead an easy birding walk for all levels. CNPS leaders will help 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.

March Field Trip to Wind Wolves Preserve

Wind Wolves Preserve
March 21, 2020 – Saturday, All day
We will carpool to this Preserve in the southern most San Joaquin Valley to join them for their 7th Annual Spring Nature Festival. For more info on the Preserve see https://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_windwolves.html
Volunteers for the event, may be allowed to camp over until Sunday March 22. Save the date & registration details will follow in the March/April Toyon.

Geoff Burleigh Dataset Posted to Calflora!

I was attending a LACNPS summer garden party hosted by Halli Mason. Geoff Burleigh and his lovely wife Mary were attending. They were both in their late 90’s and, knowing that Geoff had been cataloging every photo that he had been taking since the late 60’s (when he retired from Pacific Telephone after 41 years), I suggested that Geoff should leave his collection to our chapter and that I would take very good care of it. After Geoff passed in 2006 I was contacted by his family and received his slides and notebooks. The notebooks noted slide #, species, date and location. It took ten years to convert his notebooks to an Access database and to scan the 13,000 slides. Recently I engaged Calflora to assign GPS locations to each place he visited and took photos and post the location data and photos to Calflora. This resulted in over 8,800 of Geoff’s photos being now available through Calflora, including over 2,000 locations. See these at https://www.calflora.org/entry/observ.html#srch=t&obs=burleigh&cols=b&cinma=t&y=34.5469&x=-118.6989&z=8 or search for observer Burleigh.

At right, Geoff Burleigh with this two slide projector set up. Below are the slide trays that housed his collection of over 13,000 slides.

Visit www.geoffburleighlegacy.org to see a subset of photos from every location he visited in California.
CNPS PROGRAMS

TUES 1/14  7:30-9:30PM
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

FIRE-SAFE, NATIVE LANDSCAPING
Presenter: Cassy Aoyagi
Continued from front page.
Cassy Aoyagi is the president of FormLA® Landscaping, and a board member of the thought-leading LA Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. She believes native landscaping can save LA, broadly improving the city’s resilience. Aoyagi’s work includes several fire-wise demonstration gardens, including two fire station gardens.
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. (818-783-2920)

TUES 2/11  7:30-9:00PM
First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

RESTORING PALO VERDES KELP FORESTS
Presenter: Heather Burdick
Continued from front page.
Heather Burdick, Director of Marine Operations for The Bay Foundation’s Marine Team has been involved in research and monitoring efforts on various projects such as the Kelp Restoration Project and southern California abalone recovery. She has a B.S degree in Environmental Science with a concentration in Conservation Biology from UCLA’s Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.
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 programs, please see “Upcoming Programs” on front page.

CHAPTER ELECTION RESULTS & CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS
Thanks to all those who sent in ballots. Our slate of officers for 2020 is

Co-Presidents: Bill Neill & Snowdy Dodson
Vice President: Mary Montes
Treasurer: Steve Hartman

Unfortunately, Valarie Barsky resigned as Secretary after the ballot was printed and sent out so that position remains open. We have a volunteer to take minutes through summer 2020 but will need a fill-in after that. Our board meets at most 6 times a year when minutes are taken.

We are also looking for a Chapter webmaster. If you are interested in filling that position, please contact snowdy.dodson@csun.edu for further information. Our webmaster posts new events such as programs and field trips.

NATIVE PLANT SYMPOSIUM, CHAPTER WILDFLOWER SHOW, AND PLANT SALE
April 18, 2020 (Saturday); 9 am – 4 pm
Call for Cuttings & Save the Date

Our Chapter’s annual celebration of native plants is scheduled for April 18 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. We will have speakers, books and native plants for sale, and will feature a wildflower show using cuttings from local gardens (not the wild). Please put the date on your calendars and plan to contribute wildflower cuttings from your home garden if you have them. The cuttings will be needed for set up on Friday April 17. Contact Snowdy at 818-782-9346 or snowdy.dodson@csun.edu for further details or to sign up.

SAVE THE DATE
Natural History Museum Naturefest – March 14 & 15
Theodore Payne Garden Tour – March 28 & 29
Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House – April 4

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

February 4, 7pm (Tuesday)
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 5:45pm at Garden Wok Restaurant at same address. Members welcome!
THANKS TO OUR 2019 PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

Our Chapter had a wonderful Oct. 12 & 13 California Native Plant Sale thanks to the following dedicated volunteers: Anne Abramson, Carolyn Arthur, Valarie Barsky, Karin Benson, Darla Brunner, Julie Clark DeBlasio, Joey Farewell, Melanie Hartman, David Hollombe, Nicole Karvelas, Christian Kiillkkaa, Lucinda Mittleman, Bill Neill, David Bluenneke, Louise Ratliff, Kyra Saegusa, Mike Terry, Christine Walker, Dorothy Walker, and Henrietta, Bill and Michelle Yuan; Student Volunteers from Santa Monica College: Antigone, Chloe Aitken, Maryam Badalli, Christian Banda, Miranda Bassen, Christopher Behrens, Abigail Brand, Deepna Chand, Henry Conde, Teagan Dean, Ynez Diaz, Kristen Diep, Luis Florensio, Yinglie Fu, Sophia Garcia, Perla Ghajar, Man Ting Hsu, Drew Mack, Connor Mateo, Mahwash Monenee, Francisco Morales, Adhikarem Naiui, Ta Bao Ngan, Isabella Pedol, Brandon Reyes, Guadalupe Vargas, Priscilla Yoon, and Huan Zhang. The Plant Sale Committee, Mary Montes (Chair), Halli Mason, Steve Hartman, and Snowdy Dodson commends them for getting the job done so cheerfully and efficiently.

Special appreciation 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 and El Nativo Nursery for the high-quality plants; and S&S Seeds for the bulk seeds. A shout out goes to Henrietta and Bill Yuan staffing the canteen. 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 2020. So, finally, thank you to all of you who attended and bought plants, seeds and books and joined as new and renewing members.

FIRE IN SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE REMOVES BIG STAND OF WEEDS

On October 24, 2019, a fire broke out in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, west of Haskell Creek within a large stand of coyote bushes at the location of a homeless encampment. The wind was blowing from the north and quickly the fire whipped across Burbank Blvd and spread to the south, scorching the native trees and shrubs as the fire worked its way toward the south dam face. It was breezy enough to launch embers over the top of the dam and cause small grass fires on the south face of the dam.

Fortunately the Van Nuys airport is adjacent so within minutes a fire-fighting helicopter was dousing the flames and using the wildlife lake as a source of water (see below photos taken from the KTLA television news that shows a helicopter hovering over the lake). In other good news, the fire burned slowly northward (photo below) and removed over a dozen acres of mustard fields that will enable the LACNPS volunteer weeding crews to tackle a large area that we can hopefully convert to native shrubland.

Reported by Steve Hartman
Several years ago some of you may have been involved in efforts to encourage the USDA Agricultural Research Service to complete the long-delayed testing and APHIS approvals for agents that could be used for the biological control of Cape ivy (Delairea odorata). The program was initiated almost 20 years ago in response to requests from the California Invasive Plant Council, CNPS and Golden Gate NRA to confront this invasive vine. Cape ivy grows in semi-moist coastal areas from Oregon to San Diego, and displaces native understory vegetation, infests canopies of riparian trees to the exclusion of native birds, and the kudzu-like festoons are also a fire hazard during dry seasons and into winter.

The testing is complete for the Cape-ivy fly, Parafreutreta regalis, a host-specific gall-forming insect which stunts growth of the vine. The fly has been approved for release throughout infested areas of California for over 3 years: https://baynature.org/article/california-scientists-release-fly-control-landscape-suffocating-invasive-ivy/

Studies are being conducted at UCSB to develop best practices for fly releases in our southern and central California region. This involves lab/greenhouse work as well as setting up field trials across the region including the Santa Monica Mountains area, in collaboration with USDA which remains the lead for this statewide program. We have an approved test site at Will Rogers State Park, but it is useful to have additional sites in the region in case circumstantial factors cause a single site to fail. These subsequently serve as nursery sites for managers to use as sources for follow-up introductions of agents at other weed-infested sites in their areas.

Long-time collaborator, Bill Neill, suggests two locations that would be excellent for Cape ivy fly releases, Franklin Canyon Park and Sullivan Canyon, which may involve federal jurisdictions. Generally the statewide approval for a biocontrol program is sufficient for local managers to give informal approval for releases at their infested sites, but we realize that on federal lands a different set of complexities may come into play. We don't have the staff nor funding to go through a complex process ourselves, so hopefully local managers will provide an assist in facilitating such evaluation. Because 2019 has been wetter than usual, Cape ivy has remained green and productive far longer than usual which on one hand means local infestations are increasing more than ever, but also that we can still conduct trial releases soon.

Cape Ivy is currently distributed from Oregon down through Baja California. Cape Ivy does not tolerate frost, therefore it is somewhat limited in its distribution to coastal California. Cape Ivy is mainly found in shady riparian areas, although it can also survive in full sun along the coast and on hillslopes where it takes advantage of marine fog as a water source. In addition to threatening native flora and fauna, Cape Ivy’s growth habits enable it to quickly overtake manmade structures. This poses a threat to the integrity of fences, telephone poles, and train tracks. Additionally, Cape Ivy dries out and enters a dormant period in the warmer parts of the year to create a fire hazard.
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Webmaster: OPEN

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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 levels are: $25, $50, $120, $500, $1000, $2500. Make checks payable to CNPS.

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify CNPS Office at cnps@cnps.org, please put “member address change” in the subject line. Or mail notice to 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.