In April, I volunteered as a docent at the Theodore Payne Plant Garden Tour. Sounds innocent enough, doesn't it? I've done this several years in a row now, it is a worthy event and always fun to do as I get to meet a diverse though like-minded group of people. Somehow this year had a different, more enthusiastic vibe. Attendees at my assigned garden were overjoyed to be there experiencing the beauty of the garden and the wildlife that it attracts—butterflies, bees, pollinators, hummingbirds and other wildlife. By all reports it was truly a life-changing experience for many the term “contact high” comes to mind. Clearly the native plant gardening message was getting across. The next day, I was an attendee at the Tour and was able to visit 6-7 Pasadena area gardens where the same feel prevailed. One garden host reported that she had taken a previous Tour and had immediately started plans to tear out her lawn and go native. Her two-year old native landscape was amazing leading me to wonder whether the soil in the Pasadena/Altadena area contains some magic ingredient for native plant horticulture.

The weekend Tour experience left me with a renewed sense of purpose. All the hard work involved with organizing and carrying through with a native garden tour or a native plant week symposium or a native plant sale pays off big time with a profound change in our urban environment. I always tell those who are daunted at the thought of changing their gardens over to native plantings that this can be done incrementally. In fact putting in one native plant can create a new ecology in a yard. My personal recommendation is that everyone should plant a native buckwheat and then watch the increase in pollinators as the plant takes hold. Better yet add a native sage and get an exponential increase in attracted wildlife. It is the first step of the thousand mile journey.

Disclaimer: Please note that I am on the Theodore Payne Foundation Board so I am involved with that organization's native garden tour. There are several other native garden tours in southern California as well as ocean friendly and drought tolerant plant tours. Find one that suits you and attend, take a friend, get inspired!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

MAY 13, 2014 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO

BASICS OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN HEALING
Presenter: Jim Adams

Jim Adams is a Professor in the USC School of Pharmacy, has taught Pharmacy, Medical and Graduate Students for over 26 years. He has a PhD degree in Pharmacology and was trained for 14 years in Chumash healing. He will present the basics of California Indian healing including the uses of several common California plants. White sage, sagebrush, mugwort, black sage, yerba santa and perhaps other plants will be discussed. You will be able to learn how to make medicines from these plants and how to use these medicines in your healthcare. Jim will discuss the pharmacology and safety issues of each plant. Books will also be available to teach you how to use California plant medicines.

JUNE 10, 2014 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

RED SWAMP CRAYFISH IN TOPANGA CREEK:
REMOVAL EFFORTS AND ECOSYSTEM EFFECTS

Presenters:
Elizabeth Montgomery and Crystal Garcia

The presence of invasive red swamp crayfish (Procambarus clarkii) in Topanga Creek was first observed in 2001. The population has since increased, with an apparent explosion in 2012. Within the Santa Monica Mountains, P clarkii has been linked to diminishing numbers of California newt, a species of special concern, as well as other native amphibians. But just how far-reaching are the effects of this non-native crustacean in Topanga Creek? To address this question, we have been leading a student citizen science program, beginning in May 2013, to remove crayfish from a 200 meter reach of Topanga Creek. We have collected data on water chemistry, crayfish, aquatic insects, amphibians, and steelhead trout. In our presentation at the California Native Plant Society Meeting in June 2014, we will be discussing some interesting preliminary results.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAT 5/10 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 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 Hwy, Calabasas. 3.5hrs*

SUN 5/11 8:30am
Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Park Restoration Native plants are working hard to foil the drought to bring a natural eco-balance to the most recent addition to the park. But they need a boost a good soaking and someone to take out the would-be usurpers - invasive noxious weeds!! Bring drinking water, wear sturdy foot wear. Receive community service credit. Directions: entrance is a few hundred feet from Pacific Coast Highway on Topanga Canyon Road. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or Jo at 818-348-5910. 3.5hrs*

SAT 5/17 8:45am
Malibu Creek State Park  1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas

Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands There once was a valley where giant oaks held an ecosystem together. The trees were harvested for fuel and lumber; the valley had many experiences; charcoal kilns, farming, cattle grazing, movie making. But a white knight rode in: State Parks acquired the property to provide a park for public enjoyment and to preserve an historic landscape. Since 1992, volunteers have enjoyed a wonderful day in the park planting and caring for oak trees and their understory plants. The oaks still need your help to rebuild a native landscape. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: volunteer@treepeople.org or Jo at 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs*

SUN 5/18 8:45am
Santa Monica Mountains

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 5/31 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 your help. 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 5/31 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 6/7 8:45am
Cold Creek Valley Preserve

Be a Restorationist for a Day See May 10 write-up.

SAT 6/14 8:45am
Malibu Creek State Park  1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas

Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands See May 17 write-up.

SAT 6/14 9am–noon (Changed from 6/28)
El Segundo Dunes

LAX Dunes Volunteer Day Aside from its aesthetic beauty, this 307-acre area of contiguous coastal dunes is a rare landform in Southern California of major ecological importance, and is protected by the California Coastal Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, because it provides habitat for endangered, threatened, and rare species such as the El Segundo Blue Butterfly. LAWA recently removed some roads from the area, restoring part of the natural vista from the beach and from the dunes. Native seeds gathered last year by CNPS volunteers were then hand-sown in the newly exposed sandy soils. These hopeful native plant seeds now need our help as invasive weeds are quickly threatening to cover up the sands and prevent the native plants from germinating and successfully growing.

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

SUN 6/15 8:30am
Santa Monica Mountains

Weed War See May 18 write-up.

SAT 6/21 8:30am
La Sierra Preserve

Restoration of a Hidden Gem. See May 31 write-up

SUN 6/22 8:30am
Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Park Restoration See May 11 write-up.

SUN 6/22 10am
Malibu Bluffs Park

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Ramble around a coastal park with views of wildflowers, lapping waves, a sandy beach, and sea lions. Bring water. Location: Pacific Coast Hwy at Malibu Canyon Road, Malibu. Info: 818-782-9346. 2hrs

SAT 6/28 9am–4pm
Temescal Canyon Park

Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon See write-up for May 31.

All Field Trips - Rain Cancels

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

TUES 5/13  7:30-9:30PM  
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

BASICS OF CALIFORNIA INDIAN HEALING
Presenter: James Adams

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 6/10  7:30-9:00PM  
First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

RED SWAMP CRAYFISH IN TOPANGA CREEK
Presenters: Elizabeth Montgomery and Crystal Garcia

Elizabeth Montgomery and Crystal Garcia are Watershed Stewards Project Members working with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. Both have B.S. degrees in Environmental Studies and are interested in natural resources. They have been working in Topanga Creek since October 2013, studying the effects of non-native crayfish on the riparian ecosystem.

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 MEETINGS

Chapter members welcome!
No Board meeting in May.

June 3, 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. For more information call 818-881-3706.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

33rd Annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days
April 25-27, Danielson Ranch, Pt. Mugu State Park

The 33rd annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days will be on April 25-27 at Danielson Ranch in Pt. Mugu State Park. Come to have fun, meet other trail enthusiasts and contribute your effort to repair trails. In previous years, volunteers have repaired up to five trail miles during the weekend. This year presents a unique opportunity to work on trails within the area damaged by the 2013 Springs fire and a chance to observe the natural revegetation of the area. At the end of the day on Saturday, State Parks, National Park Service and the Trails Council will provide a delicious free BBQ dinner for volunteers. Please RSVP by April 21. For more information and to register on line go to www.smmtc.org

Great LA River Cleanup
May 3 (Glendale Narrows) & May 10 (Lower River)
9 am to noon each Saturday

Sponsored by the Friends of the LA River and in its 25th year. Go to http://folar.org/cleanup/ for details and to register. Each year the public helps to keep tons of trash from going into our ocean. Please attend if you can.

Community Meeting for L.A. River Greenway Project
May 13, 7pm. Beverly Garland Hotel, 4222 Vineland Ave., N. Hollywood

The L.A. River Greenway Project will create over five miles of continuous trail, provide access to a closed section of the L.A. River, improve water quality in the L.A. River, and restore native habitat along the river. Hosted by the Studio City Residents Association.

For more info visit: www.conservation.solutions.org/largwt.html

Local CNPS Workshops
May 27-29 - Tejon Ranch!
Herbaria Specimen Collecting for Floristic Work

Jun 10-12 - Vegetation Rapid Assessment / Relevé, Laguna Beach

Registration information and full details are available here: www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/

Central Coast Natural History Tour
Sat. May 31 Tues. June 3

In a field exploration of the San Andreas Fault and the Big Sur Coast, botanist, Steve Junak, and geologist, Tanya Atwater, will highlight the botanical and geological wonders of the central coast including Avila Beach, Morro Bay, Pinnacles, Hollister, Big Sur, Pt. Lobos, and Piedras Blancas. Consult www.cirweb.org/cgg for further info and to register.

Registration fee is $275 which covers shared campsites, park admission and speakers. Pre-trip meeting is on Wed. May 28, 7-9 pm at the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura.

2014 Cal-IPC Symposium
Oct. 8-11, 2014, Cal State Chico

Abstracts for oral presentations and posters are due Fri. June 20. Subject matter should be relevant to any aspect of invasive plant biology or management that supports effective stewardship. Undergrad, grads and recent grads may enter the student paper and poster contest.

www.cal-ipc.org/symposia.
TIME VALUE

VOLUME 34 Number 3
MAY – JUNE 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

May Program:
Basic of California Indian Healing

June Program:
Red Swamp Crayfish in Topanga Creek

President’s Message

Calendar of Events

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
henriettya@hotmail.com

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

SUBSCRIBER NOTE: Above your name on the address label is a code that indicates the month and year that your subscription/membership must be renewed. Example: DEC14*=December 2013. If your subscription has expired, an asterisk will appear: Green – Please Renew. Red – Last Issue. Check your label for your month! 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: Email David Hollombe at davhlmbc@pacbell.net. Be sure to notify State CNPS Office online at www.cnps.org or by mail to 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.