PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
By Snowdy Dodson

There has been much activity concerning the fate of the Los Angeles River. One critical decision will be made by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in the very near future. At issue is the Corp’s choice of plans for the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study which will determine the fate of restoration activity along an 11 mile stretch of the River from roughly the area adjacent to Forest Lawn through the Glendale Narrows to downtown. To view the full report see: http://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Media/PublicNotices/tabid/1320/Article/17994/spl-2013-003-nlh-draft-ifr-for-la-river-eco-rest-study.aspx

This extensive study began in 2006 at a cost of nearly $10 million. The huge report (500+ pages) recommends improvements that would restore ecological value and habitat to the Los Angeles River corridor, from Griffith Park to downtown Los Angeles, including some concrete removal. The Corps has recommended plans out of those presented in the report: alternatives 10, 13, 16, and 20 as well as one of no action. The alternatives range in cost from $375 million to $1.08 billion. The Corps recommends alternative 13 at a cost of $453 million which would restore 588 acres of wildlife habitat between Griffith Park and downtown. The Friends of the Los Angeles River (FOLAR), the L.A. River Revitalization Corp. and the City of Los Angeles are endorsing alternative 20 which has the highest cost but will deliver more bang for the buck in that it will include more connectivity between the River and areas such as Taylor Yard, the Corn Field and Arroyo Seco and add much more open space and wildlife habitat. Mayor Garcetti is asking the public to sign a petition in favor of alternative 20 and urges citizens to send comments to the Corps by the Nov. 18 deadline. For details see http://www.lariver.org/index.htm. Our CNPS Chapter will also send in comments advocating for alternative 20. The opportunity to revitalize the LA River to the fullest extent will only come around once, and we as concerned citizens need to make our voices heard to ensure that the project creates the greatest possible open space for our future enjoyment. For more details on this matter please consult the FOLAR website http://www.folar.org and the LA Times and Daily News issues of Sept. 14, 2013.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

NOVEMBER 12, 2013 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULEDAD GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO

KEEP YOUR GREEN!
SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE CONSULTATIONS
Presenter: Steven M. Williams

The Resource Conservation District is providing on-site consultations for home and business owners on how to save water, money and improve water quality by initiating sustainable landscaping solutions on their properties. "Keep Your Green" refers to the money ("green") saved through a reduced water bill and (green) climate-appropriate plants. The on-site consultation model is a perfect fit with the RCD's long-term commitment toward soil and water conservation, water quality protection, erosion control, oak health, fire-safe landscaping and native habitat restoration. (continued on page 3)

DECEMBER 10, 2013 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

BACKYARD POLLINATORS
Presenter: Emile Fiesler

Emile Fiesler will give a slideshow-assisted presentation on pollinators. The focus will be on species found in our backyards and other areas of the western Los Angeles Basin. Pollinators serve a critical role in the reproductive cycle of approximately 90% of the world's flowering plants, including most of our local native species. Insects, and a few vertebrates, also pollinate most the world's staple crop plants that feed human kind, including the majority of our fruits and nuts. Curious about what you hear and what you've seen in parks and gardens? Now is the time to ask the expert! See you there! (continued on page 3)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT 11/2</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Cold Creek Valley Preserve</td>
<td>Be a Restorationist for a Day: Join the habitat repair team planting native plants that will energetically displace invasive weeds that provide no food or shelter for the native animals and certainly do not please human sensibilities. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or <a href="mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org">volunteer@treepeople.org</a>. Meet along the first 0.5 mile of Stunt Road after turning off Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. 3.5hrs *</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 11/3</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>La Sierra Preserve</td>
<td>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. We'll plant natives and weed non-native plants. Bring water. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: <a href="mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org">volunteer@treepeople.org</a> or Jo at 818-591-1701 x203. From Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, turn onto Trousdale, then left on Mulholland Highway, then right into Peter Strauss parking lot. 3.5hrs*</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 11/16</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Malibu Creek State Park</td>
<td>Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands 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: <a href="mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org">volunteer@treepeople.org</a> or 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 11/17</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Malibu Creek State Park</td>
<td>Weed War an unending engagement started by CNPS in the early 1980s. We will win the battle against mustards, thistles, and yellow star thistle where we have planted native plants. Join us for a satisfying day of weeding and planting. Receive community service credit. Meet at DeAnza Park on Lost Hills Road. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or <a href="mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org">volunteer@treepeople.org</a>. 3.5hrs*</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 11/24</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Topanga State Park</td>
<td>Lower Topanga Park Restoration 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 water and remove those noxious weeds! 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: <a href="mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org">volunteer@treepeople.org</a> or 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs*</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 11/24</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Cold Creek Valley Preserve</td>
<td>Meet at El Escorpión Park Moore's Canyon walk in the Simi Hills A gentle loop hike through rustic El Escorpión Park, up Moore’s Canyon of the eastern Simi Hills, in the far western San Fernando Valley. The walk traverses riparian oak woodlands, coastal sage chaparral, and mixed grasslands habitats, and several regional geological formations. Our route follows the botanically diverse north trail up the canyon to Ahmanson Ranch Park (Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve), and returns on the southern fire road with vistas of the cave, peak and valley. Physical difficulty: Overall gentle grade for ~1.5 mile loop up canyon floor for ~250 ft gain, and back down. El Escorpión Park entrance and trailhead are in West Hills, Los Angeles, 91307, at the western end of Vanowen Street as it curves into Sunset Ridge Court, one short block west of Valley Circle Boulevard. Big new city park sign reads “Scorpion Park.” Free street parking. For more information and to RSVP, email trip leader at <a href="mailto:christiankillkka@gmail.com">christiankillkka@gmail.com</a>. Time: approx. 3 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 11/30</td>
<td>9am–4pm</td>
<td>Temescal Canyon Park</td>
<td>Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon 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 <a href="mailto:barbara.marinacci@verizon.net">barbara.marinacci@verizon.net</a> or Michael G. Terry at <a href="mailto:michaelgterry@hotmail.com">michaelgterry@hotmail.com</a>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 12/7</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Cold Creek Valley Preserve</td>
<td>Be a Restorationist for a Day See Nov. 2 write-up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 12/8</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Malibu Creek State Park</td>
<td>Weed War a continuous fight against weeds (non-native invasive species). Today we visit the CNPS commemorative grove. Join us for a satisfying day of weeding, planting and watering. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or <a href="mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org">volunteer@treepeople.org</a>. Call or email for directions. 3.5hrs*</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 12/14</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>La Sierra Preserve</td>
<td>Restoration of a Hidden Gem. See Nov. 3 write-up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 12/15</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
<td>Topanga State Park</td>
<td>Lower Topanga Park Restoration See Nov. 24 write-up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 12/21</td>
<td>8:45am</td>
<td>Malibu Creek State Park</td>
<td>Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands See Nov. 16 write-up.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAT 12/28</td>
<td>9am–4pm</td>
<td>Temescal Canyon Park</td>
<td>Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon See write-up for Nov. 30.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUN 12/29</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Topanga State Park</td>
<td>Native Plant Hike to view the early winter vegetation. Meet in the parking lot near the restrooms. Trail dependent on weather conditions. Bring water, snack, hat and sturdy shoes Parking fee. From Topanga Canyon Blvd., turn east on Entrada Rd. to park entrance. Info: 818-782-9346. 2 hrs easy paced.</td>
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</tbody>
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* Co-sponsored by LA/SMM CNPS, Mountains Restoration Trust, and TreePeople.

All Field Trips - Rain Cancels
ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITALITY HOSTESS HELP
In 2014, Mary Montes will have responsibility for providing refreshments for the Chapter meetings at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Mary would love to have a couple of helpers to make her task easier. If you are interested, please contact her at mcmontes100@hotmail.com. This would involve helping out at some or all of the following meetings: Jan., Mar., May, Sept., Nov.

GEOFF BURLEIGH PROJECT VOLUNTEER NEEDED
It's been awhile since an update on the Geoff Burleigh Project. Shortly after his passing in 2006, his heirs donated Geoff's collection of 13,868 native plant slides to the LA/SMM Chapter of CNPS. Since then all the slides have been scanned and an access database linking to those slide images has been created that includes the date, location, and species of each slide. We are now ready for the second phase of the project that starts off with determining a GIS (latitude / longitude) for each location. We are looking for a volunteer who is familiar with southern California (where most of Geoff's slides were taken) who could try to figure out the GIS location from the descriptive text that Geoff used (such as “Mulh. Hwy E/o Westlake Blvd”) and then enter the location into the database. We built a feature so that the location can be copied to all other locations with matching description. The volunteer would work on the database in Steve Hartman's office on Reseda Blvd. near Oxnard St. in Tarzana (where we hold our monthly board meetings). Once these locations are determined and entered, records can be entered into CalFlora so that anyone can access the data/photo. If you are interested in volunteering for this project, contact Steve Hartman at naturebase@aol.com.

FROM THE ASHES:
A CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Exhibit will showcase photographs by Michael Caley, an artist & CNPS member who has documented the recovery from the Station Fire of 2009. His works illustrate the effects of fire including the beautiful fire following blooms. An opening reception on Nov. 9 from 6:30-9:00 pm will benefit CNPS; cost of this event which includes wine, hors d’oeuvres and complementary valet parking is $10. The CNPS Executive Director, Dan Gluesenkamp, will be in attendance to honor Michael's contributions to California native plants. As a bonus, the G2 Gallery has designated CNPS to be one of 8 non-profits for the annual Holiday Stocking Fundraiser. Between Nov. 28 and Dec. 31, Gallery guests may put money in the stocking of their favorite organization. Thank you, G2 Gallery, for supporting environmental organizations.

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
I pointed out the valve at the top of the dam on the south side of Burbank that controls water flow to both the irrigation on the north side and the pipe leading into the pot hole pond. Then we drove along the top of the dam to where we could overlook the South Reserve looking north. Observing the numerous eucalyptus trees that were visible from our vantage, I noted the irony that while the project was described as one that would remove non-native invasive plants, instead native mature brush was destroyed and the non-native trees were untouched!

We then drove down into the South Reserve to the graffiti-covered bridge over Haskell Creek. This area was full of trash and debris. Towering above the native willows along Haskell Creek are dozens (if not hundreds) of the non-native, invasive evergreen ash trees that as far as I'm concerned are the biggest problem in the South Reserve.

We then discussed where the Corps stands, and the next steps. They agreed to abandon their plan to introduce saltgrass in the area. They agreed to remove the debris that was piled into the pothole pond and allow it to naturally fill up with water over the winter. They seemed agreeable to removing the existing eucalyptus trees this winter, and that the evergreen ash would be removed at a later date. They wanted help with the identification and tagging of non-native trees; I explained that it will be easiest to identify the evergreen ash once the native deciduous ash lose their leaves (or at least start turning yellow).

Following our meeting, the Corps sent out a press release stating that short-term actions will include “removal of debris piles and fallen trees. Additional work will include identification, tagging and removal of dead and non-native trees. The area will then be selectively treated with herbicide to prevent the re-emergence of non-native vegetation.”

"The Los Angeles District is committed to an open and collaborative process as we create a more valuable native habitat that allows for inspection, monitoring and maintenance of the vegetative management area," said Col. Kim Colloton, commander of the Los Angeles District. "Transparency and community involvement is vitally important to us.”

Long-term actions include the development of an array of alternatives from which a final plant palette will be selected. In a future phase of the project, the Corps will plant the selected vegetation, creating an area ideally suited for operations and maintenance of flood risk management infrastructure while also supporting passive recreation activities such as bird watching and hiking.

The plan is compatible with America's Great Outdoors Initiative and complements revitalization efforts along the Los Angeles River, balancing the objectives of flood risk management, habitat restoration, passive recreation and public safety.

For more information about the public information meeting or the planned activities, please contact Jay Field, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District, at 213-452-3920 or by email at thomas.j.field@usace.army.mil.
Volunteers Help Kickoff the LAX Coastal Dunes Improvement Project, July 13th, 2013

The Coastal Commission Permit for the Los Angeles Airport Coastal Dunes Improvement Project was approved in July. Volunteers from the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and Boeing Company helped Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), also known as the City of Los Angeles Department of Airports, kick off the project on Saturday, July 13th. Together, they removed about 1200 cubic feet of iceplant from a slope where it covered over 95% of the surface, preventing native plants from establishing. This slope is adjacent to the slope where TEAM LAWA removed iceplant, and set up a study plot about effective iceplant control methods last year. CNPS volunteers also helped to gather seeds from beach bur, branching phacelia, and common pincushion plants on the Waterview trail for the improvement project. The seeds will be planted where the roads and sidewalks have been removed in the fall. Lunch was provided by Boeing, and catered by Homegirl Café and Catering.

You can visit www.lawa.org/laxdunes to learn more about LAX’s El Segundo Blue Butterfly and coastal dunes habitat preserve.

At left, Peggy Nguyen, Environmental Specialist with LAWA, talks about the dune buckwheat (*Eriogonum parvifolium*) in foreground. Below, the El Segundo Dunes provide habitat for the rare blue butterfly *Euphilotes battoides allyni*. Common plant species encountered include deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), California croton (*Croton californicus*) and beach evening primrose (*Camissonia chieranthifolia*).
On October 3-5 I attended the 22nd Symposium of the California Invasive Plant Council at Lake Arrowhead Resort. These annual meetings are convened throughout California, and this was the second to be held in Riverside or San Bernardino Counties, after the 1998 meeting near Ontario Airport. I thank the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter for contributing to my registration expense and also for contributing directly to the conference.

The Symposium's agenda was moderately disrupted by the first days of the Federal Government Shutdown, but the organizers hurriedly found acceptable work-around solutions. A number of Federal agency employees attended the conference by paying their own expenses, but they were spectators only and did not present slide shows or posters. Some Powerpoint presentations by Federal employees were replaced by others, and some were presented by session moderators. A Saturday field trip to the San Bernardino Mountains was rerouted to locations outside the closed National Forest.

Eventually the conference program and proceedings will be posted at the Cal-IPC website (www.cal-ipc.org) but in the meantime I will share some of my notable recollections.

On Friday morning I attended a 90-minute discussion session on biocontrol of invasive wildland weeds headed by Mike Pitcairn with the CA Dept. Food & Agriculture, where I learned this information:

• Research on biocontrol of arundo or giant reed (Arundo donax) is funded by the U.S. Border Patrol, in order to reduce massive infestations along the Rio Grande River between Mexico and Texas. Recently two insects have been released in northern California.

• Biocontrol research on Ailanthus or “Chinese Tree of Heaven” may be funded by Virginia and neighboring states, where Ailanthus is replacing native woodlands.

• Research funding for controlling Sahara mustard seems unlikely, because the eventual loss of native wildflowers is not a major economic impact. Localized preservation of annual desert wildflowers will continue to depend on hand-weeding and selective herbicide spraying.

• Several biocontrol agents for yellow star thistle have been introduced to California, and most have failed but one beetle has been moderately successful at reducing YST populations, which is good news because the exotic thistle is expanding in southern California.

Another session of presentations concerned the genetic diversity of native plantings for habitat restoration. Conventionally, biologists require locally sourced seeds and native plants for this purpose; but the new realization is that introduction of non-local plants may result in hybridization and greater genetic vigor for surviving environmental change caused by climate warming, drought and increased fire frequency.

For the Saturday field trip I joined about 20 participants on a tour of habitat restoration sites in the San Ana River watershed, conducted by James Law with the Santa Ana Watershed Association based in Riverside, and by Quinn Cypher with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District based in Redlands. Our first two stops on this tour were in San Timoteo Canyon, southeast of Redlands, where Arundo removal was initiated about 15 years ago, and invasive weeds being controlled currently include Ailanthus, Mexican fan palm, perennial pepperweed and yellow star thistle. Our final stop was at Hidden Valley Wildlife Area north of Norco, where many acres of Arundo have been controlled during the past decade, and saplings and pole cuttings of cottonwood, willow and mulefat have been planted to supplement natural revegetation of the riparian corridor.

Ailanthus crown sprouts and root suckers are abundant in burnt Ailanthus grove, including in dirt driveway at a distance from burnt parent trees. Photo by Bill Neill
CHAPTER MEMBER'S BALLOT
FOR
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
LOS ANGELES / SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2014

Vote for each office. See above for candidate statements. We have no contested offices, but it is important that members of our chapter vote support of our Chapter’s goals and programs. After voting, mail the ballot to CNPS, 4728 Rosita Place, Tarzana, California 91356. December 1, 2013, is the deadline for mailing.

PRESIDENT
☐ Snowdy Dodson

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS
☐ Jo Kitz & Halli Mason

CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE
☐ Betsey Landis

SECRETARY
☐ Henrietta Yuan

TREASURER
☐ Steve Hartman

Thanks so much for voting! Cut out this ballot, insert in an envelope and mail.
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LAX Coastal Dunes Improvement Project

Page 6
Cal-IPC Symposium at Lake Arrowhead

Page 7
Chapter Officer Ballot

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jkitz@mountainstrust.org
Halli Mason
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hmason@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
Henrietta Yuan
(323) 463-1385
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Treasurer
Steven Hartman
(818) 881-3706
naturebase@aol.com

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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.

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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.