I am trying to overcome a fear of pruning my native plants. I have never gotten over seeing my huge, thriving Cleveland sage die after a former friend gave it an overly zealous and ill-timed chop job. I know what you're thinking: get over it, things die. Yep, but I don't want it to happen on my watch. The death of that sage coupled with my laissez-faire, if it ain't broke don't fix it approach to gardening has made me a timid pruner. However, last fall I broke down and pruned one of my black sages. The plant was a volunteer that I transplanted many years ago; it was leggy and unattractive. What did I have to lose? I followed some sage advice and cut the plant back by about one third, leaving green growth below my cuts. The plant loved the experience and rewarded me with beautiful, bushy growth and lots of flowers. A visitor to my garden even commented on its lovely shape.

That positive reinforcement has pushed me into contemplating trimming back some of my native grasses and that young Fremontia I planted a couple of years ago. As you can see I am not a pruning expert; so when I am faced with a pruning question, I turn to my copy of Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens by O'Brien, Landis, & Mackey. This handy reference was designed for the home gardener and for gardening maintenance personnel. Our CNPS Chapter bookstore will have copies for sale at our annual plant sale on Oct. 27 & 28. We'll have a thousand or so native plants for sale along with native seeds in bulk and we've lined up some great native gardening lectures. I invite you to visit the sale and support our Chapter and consider volunteering some time to help us in this endeavor. Contact me for further information on times and tasks that are needed.

There are other fall native plant sales in the Los Angeles area:

CNPS South Coast Chapter Sept. 28 & 29
Grow Native event in Brentwood on Oct. 6 & 7
Theodore Payne Foundation Oct. 19 & 20
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden on Nov. 3
Grow Native in Brentwood on Nov. 4
CNPS San Gabriel Mountains Chapter on Nov. 10

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, ENCINO

NATIVE AMERICAN LAND MANAGEMENT
HOW TO MAKE YOUR GARDEN, THE SOIL, AND THE CREATURES ALL GET ALONG!

Presenter: Kat High
Kat teaches traditional land management—a symbiotic relationship. The hope is that all people will become aware of the environment and take that understanding from the outdoors to our patios and our yards.

Presenter: Kat High, native American of Hupa descent, Director of Haramoknsgna American Indian Cultural Center.

OCTOBER 11, 2012 – 7:30 - 9:00PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SANTA MONICA

PENSTEMON FLORAL EVOLUTION

Presenter: Dr. Paul S. Wilson, CSUN
Dr. Paul S. Wilson is Professor of Biology at Cal State Northridge. He has a B.S. in botany from Humboldt State University, a PhD. in ecology and evolution from Stony Brook University and did post-doctoral work at Harvard University. His two interests are the dynamics of evolution and the macroevolution of bryophytes in California. Currently he and his students have been researching California native penstemons and their pollinators.

Penstemons are known for their ability to hybridize, especially two of our local species: Penstemon spectabilis and Penstemon centranthifolius. Their hybrid penstemon offspring have blossoms of different colors and shapes, often different shapes of leaves and stalks. In what other ways are they variable? Why do they hybridize so easily? What part do their different pollinators play in encouraging hybridization? Does this variability enhance the evolutionary success of both pollinators and penstemons?

Come, listen, ask questions and satisfy your curiosity about the spectacular, highly colorful lives of penstemons!

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Programs on page 3.
**Hikes and Restoration - September & October**

**SAT 9/8**  8:45am  
**Cold Creek Preserve**  
**Be a Restorationist for a Day:** Join the habitat repair team as we care for newly planted 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 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Meet along the first 0.5 mile of Stunt Road after turning off Mulholland Highway, Calabasas. 3.5hrs*

**SUN 9/9**  8:45am  
**Santa Monica Mountains**  
**Weed War** an unending engagement started by CNPS in the early 1980s. This month we revisit restoration sites so beautifully planted by volunteers earlier in the year. It’s exciting to see the growth and speculate on what native critters now have a home, food, and shelter as the sites as a weed field becomes fully functional. Join us for a satisfying day of weeding and watering. Receive community service credit. Reservations required: 818-591-1701 x203 or volunteer@treepeople.org. Call or email for directions. 3.5hrs*

**SAT 9/15**  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 and the valley had many experiences; oaks into 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 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs*

**SAT 9/22**  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 818-591-1701 x203. From Kanan Road, Agoura Hills, turn onto Troutdale, then left on Mulholland Highway, then right into Peter Strauss parking lot. 3.5hrs*

**SUN 9/23**  8:30am  
**Topanga State Park**  
**Lower Topanga Park Restoration** Native plants are working hard (growing almost like Jack’s beanstalk) 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, wear sturdy footwear. 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 818-591-1701 x203. 3.5hrs*

**SUN 9/23**  9am  
**Solstice Canyon**  
**Canyon and Creek Walk** Stroll under oaks and sycamores to enjoy fall along the coast on the way to Tropical Terrace. Bring water and snack. From PCH turn inland on Corral Canyon Rd.; drive 0.25 miles to park entrance on left. Arrive early as parking can be an issue. Additional parking in lower lot and along Corral Canyon Rd & on PCH. 818-782-9346. 2 hrs

**SAT 9/29**  9am–4pm  
**Temescal Canyon Park**  
**Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon** Barbara Marinacci leads weeding at the Native Plant Garden in Temescal Canyon Park (the City of L.A. park between PCH and Sunset, NOT MRCA’s Temescal Canyon Park). Show up anytime. For more information contact Barbara at barbara.marinacci@verizon.net.

**SAT 10/6**  8:45am  
**Cold Creek Preserve**  
**Be a Restorationist for a Day** See 9/8 write-up.

**SAT 10/13**  8:30am  
**La Sierra Preserve**  
**Restoration of a Hidden Gem** See 9/23 write-up.

**SUN 10/14**  8:45am  
**Santa Monica Mountains**  
**Weed War** See 9/9 write-up.

**SAT 10/20**  8:45am  
**Malibu Creek State Park** 1925 Las Virgenes Road, Calabasas  
**Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands** See 9/15 write-up.

**SUN 10/21**  10am  
**Malibu Bluffs Park**  
**Bluffs Ramble to the Sea** Ramble 2 miles around the coastal park on trails with views of mountains and sea; walk on the beach; return to the Bluffs and look for dolphins and whales. Meet in the parking lot. 818-782-9346. 2hrs

**SUN 10/21**  8:30am  
**Topanga State Park**  
**Lower Topanga Park Restoration** See 9/23 write-up.

**SAT 10/27**  9am–4pm  
**Temescal Canyon Park**  
**Weeding in the City Park at Temescal Canyon** See 9/29 write-up.

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

TUES 9/11  7:30-9:30PM
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

NATIVE AMERICAN LAND MANAGEMENT
Presenter: Kat High

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 6:00 pm at Tony Roma’s Restaurant, 16575 Ventura Blvd., Encino. (818-461-8400)

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

PENSTEMON FLORAL EVOLUTION
Presenter: Dr. Paul S. Wilson

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 6:00 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

September 4 and October 2, 7pm
LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting
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. These meetings take place in Steve Hartman’s office. Join board members for dinner at 5:45pm at Garden Wok Restaurant at same address. Members welcome!

NATIVE PLANT SALE
OCTOBER 27 & 28, 10AM TO 4PM
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino (near Hayvenhurst)

With over 1000 plants of over 50 California native species, there is a plant that can fill your garden's needs — from hot and dry to moist and shady. Many native plants can survive quite well with natural rainfall once they get established. Sale items include seeds, irises, mints, sages, berries, hummingbird and butterfly plants, shrubs, perennials, and trees. Theodore Payne Foundation seed mixes will be available as well as a selection of native annual wildflower species. Also available for sale are books, field guides, posters, and CNPS t-shirts. Visit displays and exhibits by local environmental agencies and non-profits. Refreshments and lunch will be available for purchase. During the sale, experienced CNPSers can assist you in selecting plants that are suitable for your garden!

Featuring FREE Native Plant Gardening Talks

Saturday - 1:00pm
CONTAINER GARDENING WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS
Lorrae Fuentes,
Educator

Growing native plants in containers is an excellent option for native plant enthusiasts with small or patio gardens, or those who want container accents in a larger landscape. There are some critical differences between growing natives in containers and growing them in the ground. Learn the basics of container gardening with a discussion and planting demonstration. Topics include container types, soils, plant selection and care and maintenance of container plants. Lorrae is a long-time CNPS member and gardener from the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter.

Sunday - 1:00pm
TWELVE MONTHS OF COLOR WITH CALIFORNIA NATIVES
Lili Singer,
Director of Special Projects and Adult Education,
Theodore Payne Foundation

Your native garden can be a seasonal showcase of flowers, seed, fruit and foliage. This illustrated program describes trees, shrubs, vines, perennials and grasses that will ensure year-round color, as well as beneficial wildlife.

For more information or to volunteer call 818-782-9346 or visit www.lacnps.org or find us on Facebook.
**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 September 2, 2012.

**COASTWEEKS 2012**

Sept. 15-Oct. 6
The California Coastal Commission sponsors Coastal Cleanup Day and other events celebrating our coastal and water resources. See their website for a calendar of events: [http://www.coastal.ca.gov/](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/)

**Waterwise Gardening Workshop**

Oct. 20, 9 am to noon
Rancho Los Cerritos, 4600 Virginia Rd., Long Beach
The event will promote the use of drought tolerant plants (native and other) to save water, lawn removal, and hints on how to prevent run-off. Speakers include Bart O’Brien, Carol Bornstein, Joyce Barkley and Zack Kent. See the Rancho website for directions: [http://www.rancholescerritos.org/index.html](http://www.rancholescerritos.org/index.html). There will be a small fee for the workshop and reservations are required; contact 562-570-1755 for details.

**Santa Clara River Clean-up And Environmental Expo**

Sept. 22, 8 am to 11 am
18386 Soledad Cyn Rd. between Whites Cyn and Hwy 14 in Santa Clarita
Help get the trash out of a portion of this natural river system. Call 661-284-1415 for info.

**La County Revised Draft General Plan**

The County Dept. of Regional Planning has released the draft for comments: [http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan](http://planning.lacounty.gov/generalplan).
Policy areas of possible interest to environmental groups include:
1) Significant Ecological Areas and related policies (p. 12, 125-128, 229)
2) Agricultural Resources and related policies (p. 13, 142-145, 229)
3) Biological Resource Policies (p.128-130)
4) Establish Transit Oriented Districts and increase residential development along commercial corridors near transit stations (p. 66-67, 81, 233).
Contact Troy Evangelho for further information 213-974-6417 or tevangelho@planning.lacounty.gov.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Cecilia Garcia  1955-2012
Chumash healer, Cecilia Garcia, passed away on May 15, 2012. She was a wonderful teacher who will be missed by all who had the privilege of attending one of her presentations. Our CNPS Chapter will plant an oak tree in her honor in the commemorative oak grove at Malibu Creek State Park.
Native Seed Resources Program

By Ellen Mackey

The Council for Watershed Health (Council) has established the Native Seed Resources Program, a cooperative effort to provide watershed-specific native propagules (seeds and cuttings) for use in restoration and revitalization projects within the watersheds of Southern California. The program will promote both the protection and the ecological restoration of native plant communities within Southern California watersheds and serve as a model for propague collection efforts throughout the State.

There is a critical need for water-smart, recreational green space in this heavily populated region, and we are redefining Southern California river systems from solely flood protection infrastructure to integrated, multi-benefit systems that provide flood protection, water quality remediation, ground water recharge, recreational opportunities, and enhancement of natural habitat. At the same time, the need to reduce our use of imported water gives urgency to expanding the use of native, drought-tolerant landscapes.

Public attention is increasingly focused on revitalizing the few remaining open spaces in heavily urbanized areas of Southern California. For example, the 2007 Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan has a long-term goal of restoring the ecological and hydrological functioning of the River. The County of Los Angeles has adopted Master Plans and Landscaping Guidelines for both the Los Angeles (1996) and San Gabriel (2006) Rivers that call for enhancement/re-vegetation along the river corridors using locally collected propagules (seeds and cuttings) of native plant ecotypes.

Meetings are scheduled at the MWD headquarters building at Union Station usually the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The detailed schedule, agendas, meeting minutes, notes, and presentations are available at www.watershedhealth.org/sustainablelandscapes/nativeseedresources.com

Upcoming meetings are scheduled: September 19, October 17, November 14, December 12, January 16, 2013, February 20, and March 20. Interested persons are welcome.

Margot Feuer, 1922-2012

One of the “founding mothers” of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, Margot Feuer died on June 16. Along with the late Jill Swift, a Sierra Club activist who helped protect areas such as Caballero Canyon and the Sepulveda Basin, and the late Susan Nelson, Margot became the Sierra Club’s principal lobbyist for the park and made repeated trips to Washington to testify before Congress. According the the Los Angeles Times, Lorenza Fong, acting superintendent of the recreation area, said “We are indebted to Margot for her lifelong environmental activism and the important role she played in establishing the nation’s largest urban national park.” David Brown, conservation chairman of the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force, said “A few citizens like Margot made it happen. It’s not anything that one agency did. She persisted, she had connections that helped and she cared deeply.”

The LA/SMM CNPS Chapter will plant an oak tree in her honor in the commemorative oak grove at Malibu Creek State Park.

There is a critical shortage of local native plants for these projects. Local native plants existed in our watersheds prior to the urbanization process and are well adapted to grow and thrive here. Their use will conserve water, protect water quality, and support native wildlife.

To meet this urgent need, the Council initiated this effort to increase collaboration and cooperation between land managers, restorationists, landscape architects, contractors, consultants, growers and seed collectors to meet the challenge of local native seed/plant shortages.

The program promotes cooperation among governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in greening projects and commercial and non-profit native plant propagators and growers. Beneficiaries of this program include 1) nursery owners, who will have a reliable source of propagules for growing under contract; 2) landscape professionals, contractors, non-profit organizations, and governmental agencies, who will be assured that the locally-native plants they need for restoration work will be available; 3) water agencies, who will appreciate the conservation benefits from locally-adapted, naturally drought-tolerant native plants for landscapes; and 4) the public, who will see beautiful spaces bloom once again along the rivers.

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STATE AWARDS CCS $339,000 FOR L.A. RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION!

Community Conservation Solutions (CCS), has received a grant to remove non-native plants and restore natural habitat by planting more than 4,000 native trees and shrubs along the L.A. River next to the proposed Los Angeles River Natural Park site between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett Avenues in Studio City (adjacent to Weddington Golf and Tennis property). The Studio City Residents Association (SCRA), helped make the preparation of the grant proposal possible, and both the SCRA and Save LA River Open Space will work with CCS in both the planning and planting of the new habitat. Community planting days will be held, with planning and design to start this fall. This grant represents the first step in improving the L.A. River Greenway between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett, one more step in the revitalization of the L.A. River in the San Fernando Valley.

Read more about this visionary plan for the L.A. River Natural Park in the San Fernando Valley by visiting www.conservationsolutions.org/larnp.html.

COLD CREEK CANYON PRESERVE IS CLOSED

Cold Creek has always been the hallmark of clean, pure water in the Santa Monica Mountains. A few years ago, the New Zealand mud snail made an appearance in local creeks. Signs, pamphlets, and brochures were distributed hoping that education would stop its onslaught. It hasn’t.

Monitoring reports indicate that a mild infestation in lower Cold Creek has expanded and snails were found along the creek up to Stunt Road. Therefore, Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) has closed the canyon to all users by locking both gates and requesting the cooperation of users. One snail on one boot might turn the tide in favor of the snail. Dewatering a creek is one method for killing the snails. That method is not possible in the canyon so prevention is our only recourse.

The MRT will work with snail experts in the hopes of developing a plan that will at least allow limited access to the trail. MRT regrets closing the preserve, but if we can keep the snails out, a few months or a season of inaccessibility is a small inconvenience to protect the aquatic life in Cold Creek.

Mountains Restoration Trust/ City of Calabasas Receive Grant for Los Angeles River Headwater Restoration Project

Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT) announced that the nonprofit land trust and the city of Calabasas have received a major grant for the Dry Canyon Creek Historic Meander Restoration Project at Headwaters Corner at Calabasas. The partner project began in 2006 to restore Dry Canyon Creek's natural water flow. The creek is a year-round headwater of the Los Angeles River and a crucial link between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

The grant for $760,000 was awarded by the California River Parkways and Urban Streams Restoration under the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006. The funds will be used to acquire two acres along Dry Canyon Creek and re-establish a 0.18 mile section of the original meandering stream. The restoration will increase the floodplain from approximately 0.27 acres to two acres of healthy riparian habitat. In addition, street drains will be redirected into infiltration areas before entering stream channels, completing the stream channel reconstruction phase at Headwaters Corner.

The course of Dry Canyon Creek at the site was altered by a former property owner during the 1950s. About 900 feet of meandering stream channel was replaced with 600 feet of straightened channel along the toe of a steep hillside. “This resulted in water flow being disconnected from floodplains and causing unstable banks and excessive erosion that couldn’t support vegetation. Non-native invasive plants now smother the narrow band of riparian vegetation,” said MRT Executive Director Debbie Bruschaber.

During the first phase of restoration at Headwaters Corner in 2006 unnatural substances were removed from Dry Canyon Creek that included large cement blocks and asphalt. MRT replanted the banks with native vegetation. The restoration improved the stream’s functions of flood mitigation, erosion reduction, recharging groundwater aquifers, increasing stream capacity, nutrient recycling, improving water quality, and providing essential breeding, nesting, feeding and refuge habitat for many birds, reptiles, and mammals.

The Dry Canyon Creek Historic Meander Restoration project brings educational opportunities to teach stewardship of healthy streams while monitoring the project’s progress at Headwaters Corner at Calabasas Interpretive Center. Established in 2004 by Mountains Restoration Trust and the city of Calabasas, Headwaters Corner at Calabasas serves as an environmental and cultural interpretive center.
Kayaking and Invasive Weeds along the Los Angeles River

By Bill Neill, Riparian Repairs

On a Friday morning in early August, I served as “guest speaker” on a 2-hour tour by kayak down the Los Angeles River channel at Sepulveda Dam Basin. This 2-month summer tour program called “Paddle the LA River” is conducted by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps (LACC) with a license from the Army Corps of Engineers. Photos and tour information are posted at www.paddlethelariver.org, along with other program sponsors and press articles.

The kayak ride was at times tranquil, as we glided in quiet water past river banks lined with willow trees, and exhilarating when our kayaks slid down shallow rapids over slick rounded boulders, physically guided by LACC crew members, into swift water at the base of rapids. Although remaining tour dates this summer are sold out, the program might be repeated next year; and in any case, the river channel can be viewed from the banks south of Lake Balboa, and from the jogging path along the north side of Encino Golf Course.

As guest speaker to a group of 10 participants, during the kayak trip I mostly identified non-native plants and native trees, and talked about the history of invasive weed control along the river channel. Because the LA/SMM CNPS Chapter has financially supported some of this work for over 10 years, I’d like to summarize that history for readers of Toyon.

Our paddle trip started under the Balboa Blvd. bridge and ended about one mile downstream near the Burbank Blvd. bridge. Before year 2000, the river banks along this reach were heavily infested with Arundo donax or giant reed, which is considered the most pernicious of non-native riparian weeds in southern California. During 2000-2001, the Army Corps of Engineers did not remove Arundo during 2000-2001 because the upstream Arundo was not considered a flood hazard. Subsequently, in 2004 a local organization called The River Project (www.theriverproject.org) secured a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy for invasive weed control and removal along the river channel, partly for the purpose of improving the view of natural habitat from the busway bridge which was then under construction.

Currently these targeted non-native weeds are still present along the river banks east of Balboa Blvd., but abundances would be much greater if no action had been taken during the past 10 years. The river banks are now heavily vegetated with willow trees and mulefat, so access can be difficult by land which has impeded weed control work at some locations. An erosive flood in March 2011 flattened much native vegetation, allowing herbicide treatment of Arundo clumps that were previously inaccessible; and the resulting dead stalks are still standing and visible from the kayak route and from hiking trails beside the golf course fences.

At the start of the kayak tour, our group paddled only a short distance upstream of the Balboa Blvd. bridge; but I briefly described the history of invasive weed control west of Balboa to the Orange Line bridge, which differs from the history downstream from Balboa Blvd. In this upstream portion of the soft-bottom river channel, the Army Corps of Engineers did not remove Arundo during 2000-2001 because the upstream Arundo was not considered a flood hazard. Subsequently, in 2004 a local organization called The River Project (www.theriverproject.org) secured a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy for invasive weed control and removal along the river channel, partly for the purpose of improving the view of natural habitat from the busway bridge which was then under construction.

During three years this project removed about 1.5 acre of Arundo, employing a tractor mower and LACC chainsaw crews; and I also treated about 40 tall eucalyptus trees (now dead and still standing) and about 160 Mexican fan palms that were later mostly felled and removed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Since 2008, after the state grant project ended, the LA/SMM CNPS Chapter has paid for minor follow-up work, and the targeted riparian weeds are now rare or nearly absent.

Editor’s Note: Since 2001, the LA/SMM Chapter of CNPS has allocated nearly $20,000 towards weed control efforts in these areas: $14,039 for the Sepulveda Basin and L.A. River, $5,261 for Malibu Bluffs, and $182 for the North San Fernando Valley. Funding for these projects was raised by selling Nancy Dale’s “Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains.”
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Dates:
Plant Sale
Oct. 27 & 28, 2012

TIME VALUE

TOYON
VOLUME 32 Number 5
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2012

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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.

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