Hurray! After two years of meeting in many different places all over the Los Angeles area, we are now presenting our free public programs in just two locations. Because of traffic congestion, for the convenience of our San Fernando Valley members, we offer public programs in January, March, May, July, September and November at the newly rebuilt Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia, just west of the intersection of Magnolia and Hayvenhurst, in Encino. To accommodate our west Los Angeles members we offer public programs in February, April, June, October and December at the Fireside Room, 1st United Methodist Church, 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica. There is no public program in August. Please join us at either or both locations for cool info on native plants and animals the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm (excepting August). See page 5 for a complete listing of programs for the remainder of 2005.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

Progress on the new “Flora of the Santa Monica Mountains” - UCLA Professor Arthur Gibson and UCLA Staff Research Associate Dr. Barry Prigge will discuss their in-depth descriptions of local flora with examples of how the pages of the new edition will look. The most recent edition of the “Flora of the Santa Monica Mountains” was Special Publication No. 2 of the Southern California Botanists, by Peter H. Raven, Henry J. Thompson, and Barry A. Prigge and was published in 1986, and has been out-of-print for many years.

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. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 5:30 pm at Chevy’s Mexican Restaurant in Encino (16705 Ventura Blvd.)

United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

“Natural History and Ecology of Seaside Heliotrope and Other Interesting Coastal Plants” - Roy Van De Hoek, biologist, Wetland Action Network, has been studying the natural history and current status of our coastal plants, especially the local populations of Seaside Heliotrope. Come learn more about the wildflowers of our southern California coast!

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. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 5:30 pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served.
The Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter was contacted by a representative of the Education Division of the California Landscape Contractors Association way back in the summer of 2004 to see whether we were interested in participating in their huge 3-day Exhibit at the Los Angeles Convention Center in the spring of 2005. They offered us a time slot of 11/2 hours for a presentation on the 3rd day. I immediately emailed her back, saying YES, WE WILL PARTICIPATE. And in the same email asked her, is there a fee, a stipend? Once you get your nerve and courage up, you might as well run with it. No problem. Immediately granted. Armed with that information I took the issue to the board. Unanimous consensus. Sure, Halli, if you can organize it, get the people who will do the presentation, get the handouts together, make all the necessary arrangements, why not? This is a wonderful opportunity to reach hundreds of people, perhaps not all participants of the symposium, but by extension through their landscaping job.

And so it went. After considering several people to present, contacting some of them, rejecting ideas I thought originally really cool, it boiled down to working with Steve Hartman from our chapter and Dan Songster from the Orange County chapter. Turned out to be a good choice. I appointed myself to be the facilitator and moderator.

It was a bit of a scramble to get all the necessary information together. The CNPS State Office forwarded membership brochures and Publications catalogs. We cranked out labels with corrected names and contact numbers; I revised the source list in the back of our Recommended List, re-wrote the introduction and composed a letter introducing ourselves. Steve created a flyer promoting our local Nancy Dale book Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains. Peigi Duvall, CNPS Horticulture Chair, had just finished a beautiful brochure Why use Native Plants and needed to FedEx it overnight in order to make it into our handout folder. I had some decals left in my possession featuring the Panamint daisy, so we included those in our packet as well.

On the day of the Symposium, February 17, 2005, we got there early enough to stroll about and look at a lot of John Deere trucks and tractors, hydro-seeding methods, and irrigation techniques, instant lawns, lots and lots of raphiolepis and melaleuca, but also some natives. S & S Seeds was there; Native Sons had a nice booth. We introduced ourselves to some of the exhibitors and then headed up to the lecture room. At the appointed time I introduced Steve with a nice personal bio and he proceeded to present a well-balanced program of public and private garden spaces. Nice photos, good talk. Then I introduced Dan, who had prepared a very helpful hand out of the plants he was going to show and talk about. Good pictures and an equally good talk. That left about 30 minutes for questions and answers. The audience (16 participants) had many questions for both speakers. Dan took a survey of who our audience was: contractors, installers, designers, some or all of it. A nice mix. A nice mix also as far as gender was concerned. We came away from this encounter with a very positive feeling. The evaluation cards, which the participants were asked to fill out, were 99% positive and gave some good feed back. Would we do it again? If we were to be asked, yes, for sure, we would do it again. And better.
LOS ANGELES / SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
EVENTS CALENDAR for MAY-JUNE 2005
Wildflower Walks and Gardening on Reverse!

PROGRAMS

Come join us for our free monthly programs!
If you have questions about native plants or native plant gardening ask our Chapter experts.
Programs are open to the public. Refreshments will be served.
See front cover for details on specific programs and directions to the locations.

May 10, Tuesday, 7:30pm-9:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino
Progress on the new “Flora of the Santa Monica Mountains” - UCLA Professor Arthur Gibson and UCLA Staff Research Associate Dr. Barry Prigge. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 5:30pm at Chevy's Mexican Restaurant in Encino at 16705 Ventura Blvd.

June 14, Tuesday, 7:30pm-9:00pm
United Methodist Church
1008 11th Street, Santa Monica CA 90403, Santa Monica
“Natural History and Ecology of Seaside Heliotrope and Other Interesting Coastal Plants” - Roy Van De Hoek, biologist, Wetland Action Network. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 5:30pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

CHAPTER BOARD MEETINGS
Chapter Members are invited!

May 6, Tuesday, 7 pm
LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at Jo Kitz’ home, 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills. (818) 348-5910

June 7, Tuesday, 7 pm
LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at Snowdy Dodson's home, 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys. (818) 782-9346

WEED WARS / RESTORATION

May 1, Sunday, 8:30am
Point Mugu State Park
Weed War at 24th Annual Trail Days. Wildflowers and young oaks in Upper Big Sycamore Canyon will thrive if non-native plants are removed. Info: (818) 348-5910. Co-sponsored with California Dept. of Parks and Recreation. 6hrs

May 8, Sunday, 9am
Malibu Lagoon State Beach
Weed War Remember Mother Nature today by bringing her wildflowers back to this beautiful state park weeding out non-native invasive species. Community service credit. Reservations required. (818) 348-5910. Co-sponsored with California Dept. of Parks and Recreation. 4hrs

May 22, Sunday, 9am
Malibu Creek State Park
Oak Restoration Day and Weed War Help restore the oak forest in Las Virgenes Valley. New trees need water and weeding. Community service credit. Reservations required. (818) 591-1701 x203. Co-sponsored with Mountains Restoration Trust. 3hrs

June 12, Sunday, 9am
California State Parks
Weed War Help halt the invasion if invasive non-native species to restore the natural beauty of our natural parklands. Community service credit. Reservations required. 818-348-5910. Co-sponsored with California Dept. of Parks and Recreation. 5hrs
May 7, Saturday, 9:30am
Santa Monica Mountains
Wildflower Wanderings will search out the “bloomingest” sites to enjoy a spring extravaganza of buds, boughs and blooms. Binoculars, hand lens, camera and field guide are useful but not necessary. Bring lunch and water. Call for meeting place. (818) 348-5910. 4hrs

May 19, Thursday, 8am
Cold Creek Preserve
Chaparral Chatter for four miles follows the trail along Cold Creek under a canopy of oaks, then opens into a grassland dotted with wildflowers before ducking under the protective branches of mountain lilac and red shank. All along the way is a myriad of spring wildflowers. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes; bring water and snack. Meet at the Lower Stunt High Trailhead. (919) 345-6749. Co-sponsored with Mountains Restoration Trust. 4hrs

May 21, Saturday, 9:30am
Devil Canyon (northwest San Fernando Valley)
Fire-Followers Plant Walk up “The Old Trail” in Devil Canyon. Discover which flowers are blooming the second spring after the Santa Susana Wildfire. Easy-paced but there will be some hill climbing as we ascend from riparian into chaparral plant communities. Meet at the north end of Topanga Blvd just above the 118 freeway. Call (818) 346-7654 for info. 4hrs

May 22, Sunday, 10am
Malibu Bluffs Park
Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Walk 2 miles on trails with great views, dip your toes into the bay, look for dolphins, whales and wildflowers. (818) 782-9346. 2hrs

May 28, Saturday, 9am
Fort Tejon and Gorman
Wildflower Wanderings will explore the higher elevations of Los Angeles County. Call for details and carpool meeting places: (818) 348-5910. 6hrs

June 4, Saturday, 9:30am
Santa Monica Mountains
Wildflower Wanderings will search out the “bloomingest” sites to enjoy a spring extravaganza of buds, boughs and blooms. Binoculars, hand lens, camera and field guide are useful but not necessary. Bring lunch and water. Call for meeting place. (818) 348-5910. 4hrs

June 11, Saturday, 9am
Cold Creek Preserve
Beautiful Cold Creek The trails of Cold Creek follow streams, cross meadows, follow a ridgeline for spectacular views, meander through scented shrubs and are graced with beauty of wildflowers and stately oaks. Explore Cold Creek on this monthly adventure. Reservations required. (818) 591-1701 x203. Co-sponsored with Mountains Restoration Trust. 3hrs

June 23, Thursday, 8am
Cold Creek Preserve
Chaparral Chatter for four miles follows the trail along Cold Creek under a canopy of oaks, then opens into a grassland dotted with wildflowers before ducking under the protective branches of mountain lilac and red shank. All along the way is a myriad of spring wildflowers. Wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes; bring water and snack. Meet at the Lower Stunt High Trailhead. Co-sponsored with Mountains Restoration Trust. 4hrs

GARDENING

CSUN-al Gardening July 16 and October 22
7/16/05 Chris & Trish Meyer “Butterflies! Beauty in the Garden”
10/22/05 Elizabeth Schwartz “California Native Wildflowers in Your Yard”
Sponsored by CSUN Botanic Garden

These are free lectures from 9:00 am to 10:30 am followed by a botanic garden open house from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. Full class descriptions and parking information are available at the CSUN Botanic Garden website www.csun.edu/botanicgarden. Limited space requires RSVP beginning two months before the lecture date. Please email (brian.houck@csun.edu) or call garden staff at (818) 677-3496 to RSVP and learn classroom location.

June 26, Sunday, 10am
Malibu Bluffs Park
Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Walk 2 miles on trails with great views, dip your toes into the bay, look for dolphins, whales and wildflowers. (818) 348-5910. 2hrs
WILDFLOWER SHOW 2005 RECAP

By Snowdy Dodson, Vice-President

The CNPS LA/SMM Chapter Wildflower Show on March 26 & 27, 2005 attracted hundreds of visitors to the lovely venue at Malibu Bluffs State Park. Our wondrous California native flower display reflected the beauty of our rain-drenched landscape. Plant specimens came from Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens & Descanso Gardens as well as from the private gardens of Trish and Chris Meyer and Doug Allen. Many thanks to all individuals and institutions that either contributed or gathered flowers for this year's crowd-pleasing display.

As usual, California native plants were available for purchase. Trish and Chris Meyer were knowledgeable plant sales persons with help from Dorothy Walker. Our thanks to Matilija Nursery (www.matiljanursery.com) and Wildscaping (www.wildscaping.com) for their high-quality native plants. This year the plant sale sold out on Saturday.

Wildflower Show Co-Chairs Sheila Bjornlie, Snowdy Dodson, and Trish Meyer would like to thank the following volunteers for making the 2004 event a success: Halli Mason and Brendan Clark, wildflower walk leaders; Betsey Landis and David Ecklund, set-up and cleanup; Harvey Bjornlie, set-up; David Hollombe, plant labels, wildflower walk assistance, & cleanup; Betty Peterson, Descanso Gardens liaison; Sid Mendel, Henry Carleton, Jo Kitz, & Olga Hammer, book sale; Henrietta Yuan and family who ran our canteen; John Kuiper, Saturday volunteer; Sandy Glover who displayed her lovely paintings and represented the Charmlee Docents: The National Park Service and Sheila Braden; and the City of Malibu, Parks and Recreation Dept. for the venue and support staff.

PROGRAMS FOR 2005

Encino programs are held at the Sepulveda Garden Center - Santa Monica programs are held at the United First Methodist Church. See front page for details of upcoming programs.

May 10: Progress of the new "Flora of the Santa Monica Mountains" - Dr. Arthur Gibson and Dr. Barry Prigge, UCLA. (Encino)
June 14: Natural History and Ecology of Seaide Heliotrope and Other Interesting Coastal Plants - Roy van de Hoek, biologist with County Parks. (Santa Monica)
July 12: Wetlands in Ventura County and along the South Coast - Dr. Shauna Dark, CSUN. (Encino)
September 13: Butterflies of Southern California - Fred Heath, author of An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies. (Encino)
October 11: Designing a Garden for Birds - Margaret Huffman, author and naturalist. (Santa Monica)
November 8: The ecology of California native plants in the nursery - Dr. Holly Wagner, plant ecologist and nursery manager for the Theodore Payne Foundation. (Encino)
December 13: Members' Show - Slides, Powerpoint presentations by members of their best native plant pictures of 2005. (Santa Monica)

Wanted

Volunteer to handle publicity for Chapter events. Most publicity to local newspapers can be done by e-mail. Please contact Betsey Landis: (310) 472-0624
SUBSCRIBER NOTE: Above your name on the address label is a 4-digit number that indicates the month that your subscription/membership must be renewed. Example: 0510 = October 2005. If your subscription has expired, your label will be color-coded: 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 $20, Retired $20, Individual $35, Library $35, Family $45, Group $45, Supporting $75, Plant Lover $100, Patron $250, Benefactor $500. 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.