UPCOMING PROGRAMS
of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

MAY 9, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
ENCINO

WILDFLOWER FIELDS OF GORMAN
Presenters: Advanced Environmental Analysis & Planning class, Landscape Architecture Program, UCLA Extension (Fall 2005)
The hills above Gorman, from the 138 north to the town of Gorman, are worthy of preservation – not only for their well-known flower displays, which have delighted generations, but also because the hills are biologically rich, at the confluence of habitats from the Sierra Nevada, the coast and the desert. UCLA students will make a case for the creation of a “Gorman Wildflower Preserve.”

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Calendar of Events on page 3.

JUNE 13, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

RESTORATION OF MARQUEZ CANYON
Speaker: John D. Hodder
John Hodder, director of California Wetlands Research, a non-profit scientific research organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of wetlands in the state of California, will give a talk on coastal sage scrub & riparian restoration efforts underway at Marquez Canyon in the Pacific Palisades, adjacent to Topanga State Park. Mr. Hodder’s past research has focused on soil chemistry & plant ecology in the Ballona Wetlands & Santa Monica Mountains, so the talk should offer useful information both to the local gardener, as well as to those interested in habitat recovery in southern California parklands & ecosystems.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE by Snowdy Dodson

"Think globally, act locally" is a philosophical stance that has roots in the environmental movement of the late 20th century. Its author, Rene Dubos, coined the phrase in order to focus our ecological consciousness on our home surroundings. Yes, we can start with the doable, local projects and work our way up to the bigger issues.

The National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat certification program encourages environmentally positive actions on the very local land surrounding our homes, schools, and communities. Numerous CNPS members have certified their yards.

See the NWF website for details: www.nwtf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat

The program emphasizes the benefits of planting native plants to encourage backyard birds, butterflies and other wildlife. In the Santa Clarita Valley, one local CNPS member, Barbara Wampole, is spearheading a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Campaign for Valencia, Santa Clarita, and surrounding communities. Her goal is to establish backyard habitat corridors connecting the wonderful, wild open spaces across the Santa Clarita Valley.

Barbara, whom many of you know from her work with the Friends of the Santa Clara River, has been certified as a National Wildlife Federation Ambassador. She is seeking volunteers and partners in the Santa Clarita Valley community to help her with this worthy project. Please contact Barbara via email: Barbara@wampole.com or phone: 661-257-3036.

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER REVITALIZATION MASTER PLAN

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Threatened by Proposal to Flood Portion of the Basin

The 18-month revitalization planning process, which formally commenced in September 2005, will look at diverse modifications and improvements along the project area (32-mile river stretch within the city limits) all aimed towards “celebrating neighborhoods, protecting wildlife, promoting the health of the river, and leveraging economic development.”

Unfortunately, “economic development” seems to be trumping protecting wildlife, as recent meetings have revealed that one idea is to create a lake where the 40-acre portion of the wildlife reserve exists (south of Burbank between the dam and the L.A. River) so that water can be stored and then sent downstream when some portion of the L.A. River needs water for an “event.” It is amazing that such a suggestion would be made given that the area was developed as mitigation for the Tillman Water Reclamation facility and currently supports a mulefat coyote brush scrub where the federally-listed endangered least Bell’s vireo is found.

L.A. City Councilmember Ed Reyes is playing the key role in this planning process and needs to hear from persons in the San Fernando Valley who want to protect the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. Contact his representatives Jill Sourial or Lupe Vela at (213) 485-3451.
UPCOMING EVENTS

The Native Plant & Wildlife Garden at Baldwin Hills
Grand Opening • May 6, 2006, 8am-1pm
Baldwin Hills Conservancy, Friends of Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles Audubon Society, and our LA/SMC chapter of CNPS invite you to the grand opening of “The Native Plant & Wildlife Garden,” a three-acre native plant garden created through efforts of interns and volunteers from the community. The garden will attract insects, birds and other wildlife for park visitors to enjoy and study. Day’s agenda includes an 8am bird walk led by LA Audubon, a 10am plant walk, 11am opening ceremonies followed by a complimentary BBQ at the picnic area. Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area, Baldwin Hills Park, 4100 S. La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles. RSVP: gardenparty@laaudubon.org or (866) 778-3755

Country Garden Fair at the Sepulveda Garden Center
May 20–21, 9am to 5pm daily
L.A. City Recreation and Parks is hosting a Country Garden Fair at the same location where we hold our bi-monthly meeting in the valley. This unique family event is offered to the community to provide gardening information and demonstrations. There will be bonsai show, arts and crafts for sale, activities for children, a petting zoo, food, and lots of fun for everyone. Our chapter and the Theodore Payne Foundation will share a table to sell plants, books, and share information about native plants. Free admission. 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino (between Balboa and Hayvenhurst). If you would like to volunteer please call Steve Hartman at (818) 881-3706.

Southern California CNPS Conservation Meeting
June 17, 10am–4pm, Headwaters Corner, Calabasas
Attention everyone interested in conservation issues, this is a good meeting to attend! CNPSers from all the “southern California” chapters have been invited to send representatives. Topics of discussion include what to do about filling the CNPS southern California regional botanist position, OHV issues, fire and much more. We will also get an update on the “Four Forests” plan. Meeting will take place at the Mountains Restoration Trust headquarters, 3815 Old Topanga Canyon Road, Calabasas, 91302. Call Snowdy Dodson at (818) 782-9346 for further information.

LAW SUIT REQUESTS MORATORIUM ON FILLING AND DREDGING PERMITS ON THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

Three environmental groups held a press conference in February to announce a lawsuit filed against the Army Corps of Engineers for not properly protecting the Santa Clara River, one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California. Saying the corps had approved at least 100 projects along the river in the last five years, the groups want a federal judge to stop the agency from issuing another permit until it completes an analysis of the cumulative damage these projects would have on the river. The three groups are Friends of the Santa Clara River, The Center for Biological Diversity, and Wishitoyo Foundation/Ventura Coastkeeper. “Bit by bit, project by project, the Santa Clara’s use as a living river is being whittled away,” said Ileen Anderson, LA/SMC chapter member and ecologist with the Center for Biological Diversity.

L.A. CITY COUNCIL PROTECTS MORE NATIVE TREES SPECIES IN UPDATED PROTECTED TREE ORDINANCE

Los Angeles City Council President Eric Garcetti won the unanimous support of his colleagues for a revised and revitalized Protected Tree Ordinance that protects Los Angeles’ vital forest canopy and regulates the removal of oak, walnut, bay and sycamore tree species.

"Who would have thought of Los Angeles as one of our nation’s great forests?" said City Council President Eric Garcetti. "We don’t look like Yellowstone to the naked eye, but trees are a vital part of our city’s infrastructure. They improve our air quality, help control floods and conserve water and energy. They also raise property values and contribute to a higher quality of life in the city."

Though often caricatured as a "paved paradise," Los Angeles’ 700,000 street trees, 800,000 trees in parks, and estimated 20 million trees on private property constitute the nation’s largest urban forest. Tree protections help reduce "heat island" effects, preserve ecological balance, and both clean the air and provide oxygen.

"Today we are protecting our heritage, our vital native habitat," said Clare Marter Kenyon, the chair of the mayor-appointed Community Forest Advisory Committee. "When trees go, animals go, too. In the twenty-six years since the original Protected Tree Ordinance was passed, we’ve seen encroachments on rare and threatened plant communities. The badly needed steps we’re taking today will leave a green legacy in our city for future generations."

After a year of outreach and meetings, the recommended changes to the original Oak Tree Protection ordinance approved in 1980 include: Extending protection to the southern California black walnut, the western sycamore, and the California bay; requiring a permit for protected tree removal/relocation on all property in Los Angeles; reducing the threshold of trunk diameter from 8 inches to 4 inches; calculating the required replacement mitigation utilizing a value formula; allowing small trees to be used as replacements if they will have a greater chance of survival than the larger sizes; and including provisions for civil penalties if the protected trees are removed without a permit.

Chief Forester George Gonzalez in the Bureau of Street Services may be reached for further detail on our city’s urban forest at (213) 485-5675.

NEW VIDEO/DVD
ENGLISH IVY AS AN INVASIVE WEED

Leif Joslyn has completed his video/DVD presentation on English Ivy. The contents include cultural history (urban and wildland impacts), identification & life cycle, and threat to coast redwood ecosystem. The video/DVD can be purchased for $25. You can obtain all the information you need for purchasing the video/DVD by going to Leif’s website - www.xenob.com

Note: The LA/SMC Chapter CNPS donated to this project.
PROGRAMS

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

WILDFLOWER FIELDS OF GORMAN
Presenters: Advanced Environmental Analysis & Planning class, Landscape Architecture Program, UCLA Extension (Fall 2005)

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 6:00pm at Chevy's Mexican Restaurant in Encino (16705 Ventura Blvd.)

TUES 6/13 7:30-9:30pm
First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

RESTORATION OF MARQUEZ CANYON
Speaker: John Hodder, Director California Wetlands Research

SEE RELATED FIELD TRIP ON SATURDAY JUNE 24

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 6:00pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMS, PLEASE SEE “UPCOMING PROGRAMS” ON FRONT PAGE.

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SUN 5/14 9am
Malibu Lagoon State Beach
Weed War Remember Mother Nature today by bringing her wildflowers back to this beautiful state park. Bring lunch, water, and gloves; community service credit; call for details. Reservations required. (818) 348-5910. 4 hours.

THUR 5/18 10am
Cold Creek Preserve
Cold Creek Meanderings See a myriad of spring wildflowers and stunning views on this 4-mile walk. Wear hiking boots/sturdy shoes; bring water and lunch. Meet at the Lower Stunt High Trailhead. 3 hours. Co-sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust. (818) 591-1701

SAT 5/20 9:30am
Santa Monica Mountains
Wildflower Wanderers Search for a spring extravaganza of buds, bouquets and blooms. Binoculars, hand lens, camera and field guide are useful but not necessary. Bring lunch and water. Call (818) 348-5910 for meeting place. 4 hours.

SAT 5/27 9:30am
Santa Monica Mountains
More Wildflower Wanderers Yet another chance to enjoy the outdoors. Bring lunch and water. Call (818) 348-5910 for meeting place. 4 hours.

SUN 5/28 10am
Malibu Bluffs Park
Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Dip your toes into the bay plus look for dolphins, whales, and wildflowers on this 2-mile walk. 2 hours. Call (818) 782-9346.

SAT 6/6 9:30am
Santa Monica Mountains
Wildflower Wanderers Search for a spring extravaganza of buds, bouquets and blooms. Binoculars, hand lens, camera and field guide are useful but not necessary. Bring lunch and water. Call (818) 348-5910 for meeting place. 4 hours.

SAT 6/10 9am
Cold Creek Preserve
Beautiful Cold Creek Join this monthly adventure, follow streams, cross meadows, and walk through scented shrubs. Reservations required. (818) 591-1701 x203. 3 hours. Co-sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust.

SAT 6/11 9am
California State Parks
Weed War Help restore the natural beauty of our parklands. Bring lunch, water, and gloves; community service credit. Reservations required (818) 348-5910. 4 hours

THUR 6/15 10am
Cold Creek Preserve
Cold Creek Meanderings See a myriad of spring wildflowers and stunning views on this 4-mile walk. Wear hiking boots/sturdy shoes; bring water and lunch. Meet at the Lower Stunt High Trailhead. 3 hours. Co-sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust. (818) 591-1701

SAT 6/24 10am
Marquez Canyon, Pacific Palisades
A Restoration In-Progress Join us on for a quick tour (2 hrs.) of the Marquez Canyon Creek Ecological Restoration, led by our June program speaker, John D. Hodder. Find out about weed eradication and revegetation efforts, as well as plans for a future stream restoration and educational program for local schools & community. Recent highlights in the canyon flora have included scarlet monkey flower (Mimulus cardinalis) & slender tarweed (Hemizonia fasciculata). Parking is ample in front of the Marquez Charter School, 3 blocks north of Sunset Boulevard on Marquez Avenue. Call (310) 801-1209 for additional directions.

SUN 6/25 10am
Malibu Bluffs Park
Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Dip your toes into the bay plus look for dolphins, whales, and wildflowers on this 2-mile walk. 2 hours. Call (818) 348-5910

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Redesigned National Invasive Species Website
The National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC) at the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has launched a redesigned Web site making it easier to find information about invasive species. Users can more quickly find the information they need. Browse for information by invasive species type - aquatic species, plants, animals and microbes--or by other topics, such as economic impacts, laws and regulations, management, or news and events. Species profiles are core to the Web site; more than 80 profiles are currently available, with new profiles added every year. All types of invasive species are profiled, including the northern snakehead fish, cane toad, brown tree snake, fire ants, nutria, West Nile Virus, water hyacinth, and kudzu.

The website address is: http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/
CNPS Southern
California
Conservation
Conference
SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 10am–4pm
at HEADWATERS CORNER, Calabasas
See page 2 for more info...

TIME VALUE

TOYON
VOLUME 26 Number 3
MAY – JUNE 2006

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Chapter Message Phone: (818) 881-3706
Chapter Website: www.lacnps.org
Chapter email: lacnps@lacnps.org

See www.lacnps.org for chapter officers.
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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 $25, Individual $45, Library, Group or Family $75, Plant Lover $100-$300, Patron $301-$600, Benefactor $601-$1,500, Mariposa Lily over $1500. 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.