

## CHAPTER ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

CHAPTER NAME: Channel Islands

YEAR: 2007

NAME & POSITION OF PERSON PREPARING REPORT: Cher Batchelor (Secretary)

WE ARE /ARE NOT  REQUESTING A SUBVENTION.

### OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER

**What are the main concerns or focus of your chapter?** Conservation, Horticulture, Education, Community Outreach through programs, plant sales, fieldtrips, expanding our education outreach, coordination with the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, coordination with Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, and developing coordination efforts with other like-minded organizations. We also work to keep our website attractive and up-to-date. Ventura County and Santa Barbara County are both streamlining their CEQA review processes and eliminating environmental review for many projects that should be considered discretionary. Only legal challenges will correct these problems.

**What are your chapter's special strengths or accomplishments?** CI Chapter members continue to represent CNPS as members of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, Santa Clara River Project, Channel Islands Regional GIS Collaborative, Ventura Hillside Preservation Group, Ormond Beach Recovery Project, and Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Several members participate in the Channel Islands National Park restoration project activities. A CI Chapter member is a native plant illustrator who is donating some of her illustrations for both Chapter and State related projects. Another member is coordinating efforts to document invasive species within the Los Padres National Forest.

Our chapter's special strengths and accomplishments include: Conservation efforts (the funds raised from this activity have dropped during the last two years), informative outreach programs and outing events (including restoration, seed collecting, and propagation events), as well as coordinating and participating with other conservation, preservation and restoration groups in the Ventura and Santa Barbara areas. Volunteers continue to represent the Chapter as liaison with the Friends of the Santa Clara River; handle the plant sales; provide posters to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and other interested organizations; and update our website. We also have active members who are staff at the SBBG; and other members are staff with the Channel Islands National Park, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Offices located in the Ventura and Santa Barbara areas. We also have members associated with other Government agencies and the Ventura County Planning Division.

**What are the major challenges or problems facing your chapter?** A major challenge is recruiting more active members from our membership base. We still need to fill existing vacant Chapter positions; identifying people interested in and able to fill upcoming vacant positions including Education Chair, Program Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Treasurer, and also positions where individuals are filling in for two positions. Volunteers interested in coordinating Chapter efforts in the areas of legislation, conservation, and invasive plants are also needed.

Additionally, existing active members are involved in major conservation and plant science (both rare plant and vegetation) projects and activities, and there is a real need to find time to identify existing and/or new members who are interested in filling vacant positions as well as work on ongoing projects.

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Finally, publicity of our event information is always a challenge, but we have new volunteers to start organizing advertisements and to list events in local newspapers and distribute handouts.

**Is this an ongoing situation, has it improved or gotten worse?** This is an ongoing problem in general in that we do not have enough active volunteers.

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

1. **Board Meetings:** Five (5) meetings held in 2007. Volunteer hours for each officer and chair to attend is 3 hours per meeting plus driving time. The total number of hours for board meetings was approximately 160 in 2007.

2. **Field Trips:**

# of trips: 5

# of participants/trip: averaged 5 per event.

# of volunteer hours to organize and lead trips: 12 hours per event, approximately 60 volunteer hours to organize and lead trips.

Hikes included:

- 17 February 2007 - Romero Canyon Trail lead by William Abbott.
- 10 March 2007, 9AM - Cozy Dell Trail with guest hike leader David Torfeh.
- 14 April 2007 - Catalogue fire followers with David Magney.
- October 27, 2007 - tour of Ormond Pointe Nursery (no one showed up though) - lead by Trisha Munro.
- November 24 2007 - Fall Colors Hike to Lion Canyon, Ventura County - lead by David Magney

3. **Programs:** 3 program meetings

# of volunteer hours to organize and present programs: 24 hours per event, approximately 72 volunteer hours to organize and lead trips. Program attendance by public and membership has been very low, embarrassingly low, likely as a result of poor publicity.

Programs included:

- 21 February 2007 - Peter Brand, Calif. State Coastal Conservancy, "Ormond Beach Habitat Restoration, and Other Coastal Conservancy Projects"; E. P. Foster Library, Ventura
- March 2007 - Michelle Bates with TetraTech on Rincon Creek Watershed Plan in Santa Barbara
- April 2007 Casey Burns, Ventura Resource Conservation District

5. **Newsletter:** 1 Issue in 2007.

# of volunteer hours to edit and distribute: approximately 40 hours. Annual cost: \$400.

6. **Public Outreach Events:** # of events: 3.

# of volunteer hours: 200 plus.

# of public contacts: unknown but greater than 50 per event.

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Nature of events:

- Spring Plant Sale. 31 March 2007
- Fall Plant Sale: 10 November 2007
- Salmon Run: 11 November 2007

7. **Education Efforts:** # of volunteer hours: 100. Although we do not have an Education Program Coordinator, we still maintain a limited special outreach to teachers or students, grants to graduate students; in-service training for teachers; donation of education materials to schools; curriculum development.

**Conservation:** # of volunteer hours: 250. Some of the most important issues the chapter has worked on include: County of Ventura Wetlands Recovery Projects, County of Ventura Vegetation Mapping Project, Ventura Marsh Milkvetch/North Shore Development, Newhall Ranch Development, Ormond Beach Restoration, Calleguas Creek, Matilija Dam Removal, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden expansion, Santa Barbara Ranch (Naples) housing development, and Diamond Rock Sand & Gravel Mine project. Conservation activities include review of documents, attending hearings, meetings, and coordination with attorneys representing CNPS and other organizations, etc. CNPS members worked with local like-minded conservation organizations.

The work on the Species of Local Concern (Locally Rare Plants) for Ventura County is complete, but updates occur about every 6 months. Work is now progressing on conversion of the word document to an Access Database with fields for latitude and longitude locations so the data can be converted into a GIS data set. Two separate efforts to document and write flora for Ventura County are still in progress and the species of local concern for Santa Barbara County was updated.

The Chapter donated \$100.00 toward the restoration effort at Arroyo Hondo Preserve.

Members Trisha Munro and Nancy Pedersen are actively restoring Ormond Pointe (Oxnard, California) to a natural condition through the removal of exotic plants and revegetation with plants from the immediate area. Ormond Pointe is comprised of 14 acres of vacant, City-owned land located between Oxnard's water treatment plant and the parking lot at the terminus of Perkins Road. At present, the site is somewhat disturbed but contains remnants of salt marsh and coastal upland. The majority of plants to be used for revegetation will be grown at a small on-site nursery. All propagules will be obtained on or in the immediate vicinity of the property. The workforce for this project is entirely volunteer with the majority of work being done by the Master Gardeners. A big component of this undertaking will be education of school children and their parents about the importance of native plants and the wonderful resource represented at Ormond Beach. Children have already visited the site under the auspices of local schools and the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary; these field trips are ongoing. The City of Oxnard has provided a great deal of help in removing *Myoporum* and concrete debris that has been scattered on the site. In addition, they have provided some material for our use.

9. **Work Parties:** none

10. **Legislative Activity:** None.

11. **Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows:** Our Chapter has two plant sales per year with approximately 80 volunteer hours/event for 160 hours total.

The number of public attending: 125/event.

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Plants provided by Matilija Nursery, Bob Sussman owner and Chapter member.

12. **Rare Plant Activities:** Our Chapter has Rare Plant Activities in both Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Approximately 80 volunteer hours in Santa Barbara County and 40 hours in Ventura County.
13. **Undocumented type of contact** (e.g. visits to legislators, written communication, letters to editor, petitions, letter writing campaigns, press conferences):  
None.
14. **Other Activities:** David Magney continues to work on the flora of Ventura County manuscript. He periodically adds plant checklists for a trial in Ventura County, posting it on the chapter website ([www.cnpsci.org](http://www.cnpsci.org)).
15. **Additionally**, three chapter members have been very active at the State level, attending Board and CC meetings as well as conservation and plant science program meetings (David Magney, Lynne Kada, and Patt McDaniel). Volunteer hours for these efforts are more than 400 hours each when travel time, coordination time (teleconferences and email), meetings and document preparation is included.