

CHAPTER ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

CHAPTER NAME: Channel Islands Chapter YEAR 2003

NAME AND POSITION OF PERSON PREPARING REPORT: Lynne W. Kada
WE ARE X /ARE NOT _____ REQUESTING A SUBVENTION

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER -

Main concerns and focus of your chapter: Conservation, Education, Community Outreach through programs, plant sales, fieldtrips, expanding our education outreach through in-school garden program, presence at Master Gardner Program events, coordination with Ojai Valley Land Conservancy in development of a native plant propagation area, and developing coordination efforts with other like minded organizations. We also work to keep our website up-to-date, although our chapter needs a new Webmaster. Our publicity person is doing an effective job making sure our events information is listed in local newspapers and distributed as handouts.

CI Chapter members continue to represent CNPS as members of the Calleguas Creek Watershed Planning effort, the Santa Clara River Project, the Channel Islands Regional GIS Project, are now coordinating with the efforts of the Ventura Hillside Preservation Group planning efforts, the Ormond Beach Recovery Project and the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project and the Channel Islands restoration project activities. Chapter members were also members of the Ventura County Open Space District Advisory Committee. Another 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 eradicate invasive species on Santa Rosa Island. Our Annual dinner meeting and program continues to be successful, with up to 65 members attending this event.

Our chapter's special strengths and accomplishments include: Conservation efforts, education related to in-school garden program, our Spring and Fall plant sales [the funds raised from this activity have dropped during the last year], 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 handle the newsletter editing position that became vacant in 2002; 2) represent the Chapter as liaison with the Friends of the Santa Clara River; 3) continue to handle the plant sales although our plant sale coordinator stepped down; 4) a member living in Carpinteria, is a docent at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden as well as the hospitality person for Santa Barbara Program meetings and will also be coordinating the scheduling of outings for our Chapter; 5) we continue to provide posters to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and other interested organizations; and 6) our website is hosted by provider who has offered to host the site at no cost. We also have active members who are staff at the SBBG; and other members are staff with the State Parks, Channel Islands National Park and Fish and Wildlife Service Offices located in the Ventura and Santa Barbara areas;

Major challenges or problems facing the chapter in 2002: recruitment of individuals to fill existing vacant Chapter positions; identifying people interested in and able to fill upcoming vacant positions including Chapter Education Chair, Plant Sales, Program Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator 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.

Our Chapter still has difficulties recruiting existing Chapter members in the Santa Barbara area continues to be a problem for Chapter outreach and coordination, although there are five members living in Santa Barbara County who are directly involved in actively supporting Chapter activities and functions. 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. Our Chapter newsletter now includes a list of vacant positions with a request for interested members to contact any of the Chapter Officers for information about vacant positions

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES –

1. Board Meetings: 11 meetings/year
230 volunteer hours for officers and chairs to attend as alternate meetings are held in Carpenteria, adding to driving time to get to meetings
2. Field Trips: 12 trips: Please see our Chapter Newsletter for the trip list locations/destinations;
Average of 13 participants/trip
175 (approximately) volunteer hours to organize and lead trips
3. Programs: 10 program meetings:
Average 15 attendees/meeting
95+ volunteer hours to organize program meetings
About \$1500 expenses (room rental, speaker fees, hospitality)
Subjects and speakers: please see Chapter Newsletter for list
4. Newsletter: 5 issues/year
260+ (Approximately) volunteer hours to edit and distribute
Per issue cost – Printing approximately \$300 and mailing approximately \$150 per issue [450 newsletters printed and distributed either by mail or handouts]
5. Public Outreach Events: 5 events: Earth Day, Santa Barbara Garden Show, Master Gardner's event, Patagonia Salmon Run and Ormond Beach Observers media event.
30 (approximate) # of volunteer hours, every one attending these events contacted but number of contacts not recorded.

6. Education Efforts: special outreach to teachers or students, grants to grad students; in-service training for teachers; donation of education materials to schools; curriculum development.
60+ volunteer hours/project

7. Conservation: 350+ of volunteer hours
Ventura Marsh Milkvetch/North Shore Development, Ahmanson Ranch Project, Newhall Development, Ormond Beach Restoration, Calleguas Creek, Matilija Dam Removal, Rocky Pointe (Simi Valley) preservation are some of the most important issues the chapter has worked on: Except for the Ahmanson Ranch Project, each of these projects is ongoing.

Conservation activities include review of documents, attending hearings, meetings, and coordination with attorneys representing CNPS and other organizations, etc.) CNPS members worked with include local like-minded conservation organizations, County staff (Newhall and Ahmanson Ranch Projects and the new County Wetlands/Riparian areas vegetation mapping project)

The final working draft of a Species of Local Concern for Ventura County has been completed. Work is now progressing on conversion of the word document to an Access Data Base 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 effect and the species of local concern for Santa Barbara County was updated.

8. Work Parties: 5 work parties
Conservation/weed/invasives removal project
Average 5-volunteers/work parties for 5 hours each volunteer (125 hours plus an additional 20 hours for coordination and follow up)

9. Legislative Activity: variety of State conservation/CEQA related issues or bills worked on by Chapter members
60 plus hours

10. Rare Plant Activities: both in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties
Approximately 80 volunteer hours in Santa Barbara County and 40 hours in Ventura County

11. Undocumented type of contact (e.g. visits to legislators, written communication, letters to editor, petitions, letter writing campaigns, press conference)
Unknown number of each type
Unknown # of legislative contacts
50 (approximate) volunteer hours

12. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows: two plant sales

140 volunteer hours from 10 members each sale
80+ people attended each plant sale
Plants provided by Bob Sussman, Matilija Nursery

13. Other Activities: Annual Dinner Meeting held in October 2003
Two different individuals are working independently to prepare floras of Ventura County.

The Species of Local Concern for Ventura County has been prepared, is available on the State CNPS website and is being finalized for reproduction and distribution to local agencies (cities, county, special districts) and conservation groups for their use in preparing project reviews (CEQA/NEPA documents)

14. 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. 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.