

CHAPTER ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

CHAPTER NAME: **Channel Islands**

YEAR: **2005**

NAME AND POSITION OF PERSON PREPARING REPORT:

Cher Batchelor (Chapter Secretary) and David L. Magney (Chapter President)

WE ARE X /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 through the school garden program, coordination with the Ventura Hillside Conservancy, 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 attractive and up-to-date.

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, the Calleguas Creek Watershed Planning effort, the Santa Clara River Project, the Channel Islands Regional GIS Project, are coordinating with the efforts of the Ventura Hillside Preservation Group planning efforts, the Ormond Beach Recovery Project and several members participate in the Channel Islands National Park restoration project activities. Chapter members completed work as 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 Chapter Secretary planned our Annual Dinner, including meeting and program, and it continues to be a successful gathering at a local winery in Ojai, with over 100 in attendance at the September 2005 event.

Our chapter's special strengths and accomplishments include: Conservation efforts, [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 (1) handle the newsletter editing position; (2) represent the Chapter as liaison with the Friends of the Santa Clara River; (3) handle the plant sales although our plant sale coordinator stepped down; (5) 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; (6) we continue to provide posters to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and other interested organizations; and (7) our website is now hosted by new

provider at a low 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.

Finally, our new Chapter Treasurer spent over 150 hours maintaining the Chapter financial data in QuickBooks. Our Chapter Treasurer has done a really fine job with this to keep our records consistent with the State reporting format, and reporting can be completed quickly and accurately.

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 Chapter Education Chair, Plant Sales, Program Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, 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. 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.

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, it has deteriorated because we have lost our, Education Chair [so we do not, at this time, have a presence at Master Gardner Program events], and Newsletter Editor. Current active members are filling in these positions as they have time. One of our members is developing a data list of people who have attended events over the last 5 years, including information as to whether they would be willing to help the Chapter (contact information, especially their email addresses). We plan to use this as an outreach mechanism to contact these members.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES -

1. **Board Meetings:** 11 meetings/year. 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 230 in 2005.

2. Field Trips:

of trips: 7

of participants/trip: averaged 8 per event.

of volunteer hours to organize and lead trips: 12 hours per event, approximately 84 volunteer hours to organize and lead trips.

Hikes included:

- Feb.2 – Presentation at Los Padres Forest Association
- Feb. 5 – Ventura River Bottom Hike
- Feb. 26 – Mugu Peak Hike
- Mar. 12 - Pratt Trail
- May 14 - Wheeler Gorge
- June 18 - Middle Lyon trailhead up Lyon Creek and included a weed pull
- Dry Lakes Ridge in the mid-spring

3. Programs: 6 program meetings.

of attendees/meeting: 15 on average.

of volunteer hours to organize program meetings: 10 hours per program; 60 hours total.

expenses: \$1,000 expenses including speaker fees, honorarium, housing and transportation cost as needed, hospitality supplies.

Programs included:

- Brad Henderson Feb. 16th
- Rosemary to present El Nino talk in Ventura - March
- John Tiszler with Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area (vegetation mapping) April 20th:
- Steve Junak – June 2005 Program Speaker – Rare Plants of Channel Islands - at SBBG
- 17 September Mark Borchert (Annual Dinner)
- 19 October Liz on Rare Plants in Santa Barbara: Defining Locally Important Species-Lessons Learned in Ventura County.

Newsletter: 1 Issue in 2005.

of volunteer hours to edit and distribute: approximately 100 hours. Annual cost: \$425 per issue.

5. Public Outreach Events: # of events: 9.

Please describe the nature of events:

- Ojai Day June
- Aveda Campaign-Earth Month to benefit CNPS (April 17th was cut-a-thon, and April 24th was Hike). Aveda cut-a-thon brought in \$1,100 and the hike raised some money too
- Earth Day 22 April.
- Spring 2005 Plant Sale: 16 April. we sold \$1,562 in plants.
- CNPS CI Annual Dinner: 17 September Old Creek Ranch Winery, Ojai

- SOAR 10-year Anniversary Party 9 October
- Ventura Hillside Concert October
- Plant Sale 12 November
- Salmon Run 13 November

of volunteer hours: 240 plus.

of public contacts: unknown but greater than 25 per event.

6. **Education Efforts:** Although we do not have an Education Program Coordinator, we still maintain a limited special outreach to teachers or students, grants to grad students; in-service training for teachers; donation of education materials to schools; curriculum development. Developing and maintaining one school garden; donation of School Garden book to schools. 11 hours was put toward a school garden at Briggs in Santa Paula. The Chapter needs an Education Program Volunteer so there was not much education outreach during 200430 volunteer hours/project

7. **Conservation:** # of volunteer hours: 50

CNPS members are involved with Ojai Valley Land Conservancy conservation projects, County of Ventura Wetlands Recovery Projects, County of Ventura Vegetation Mapping Project, Ventura Marsh Milkvetch/North Shore Development, Ahmanson Ranch Project, Newhall Development, Ormond Beach Restoration, Calleguas Creek, Matilija Dam Removal, Rocky Point (Simi Valley) preservation are some of the most important issues the chapter has worked on: The Ahmanson Ranch and Rocky Pointe Projects have been resolved and the other projects are ongoing.

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 for Ventura County is nearly complete. 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 progress and the species of local concern for Santa Barbara County was updated.

8. **Work Parties:** Our Chapter held 3 weed removal and restoration work parties with approximately 80 participant/volunteer hours.

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

10. **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.

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

<1% of plants member-grown.

11. **Rare Plant Activities:** Our Chapter has Rare Plant Activities in both in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Approximately 80 volunteer hours in Santa Barbara County and 40 hours in Ventura County.
12. **Undocumented type of contact** (e.g. visits to legislators, written communication, letters to editor, petitions, letter writing campaigns, press conferences):
Unknown number of each type.
Unknown number of legislative contacts.
90 (approximate) volunteer hours.
13. **Other Activities:** Successful Annual Dinner Meeting held in September 2005 at a local winery in Ojai. Two different individuals are working independently to prepare floras of Ventura County. The Draft 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.