



# Matilija Copy

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Editor: David L. Magney

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**Note:** The Channel Islands Chapter has a **new mailing address**. Please send all mail to the Channel Islands Chapter to:

CNPS Channel Islands Chapter  
PO Box 6  
Ojai, CA 93024-0006

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**Directions to the E.P. Foster Library:** from the North on US101 take Ventura Ave exit, go straight 2 blocks and turn Right onto Main St.; go 6 blocks East and turn Left onto Chestnut St. From South on US101 take the California St. exit; go 2 blocks and turn Right onto Main St. and turn Left onto Chestnut. Parking is located behind the library, and there is a rear entrance to the **Topping Room**, on the West side of the library.

The **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden** is located at 1212 Mission Canyon Dr. (many routes lead through Santa Barbara to Foothill Road/SR192). Mission Canyon Dr. is North of SR192.

## UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS

### *“Propagating Native Plants from Seed and Cuttings”*

**Christopher Bysshe, Propagation Specialist**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 21, Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura**

Christopher Bysshe, chapter board member and environmental consultant with Ojai-based environmental consulting firm BioResource Consultants, will give a presentation on methods and techniques for propagating native plants from seed and cuttings. He will describe the steps necessary from how and when to collect the propagules to how to get them to grow. Chris grew up in Ventura and studied at Humboldt in northern California. This should be a very interesting and informative, as well as useful, program.

*\* Dinner at local restaurant before each meeting. Call local facilitator for time and place. \**

### *“Chapter Member Slide Night”*

**You, Chapter Members, Great Photographers**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

It has been many years since we have done this, and it is time to do so again. Bring your best 10 slides of native plants that you have taken in the last year or two to share with the rest of us. We will provide the projector and at least one Kodak Carousel slide tray, but the event will go smoothly if you bring them in a tray already. Be prepared to tell us what the photo is of, and where you took it. Unidentified plant photos are welcome, and we will try to I.D. them. Speaking of plant identification, bring a specimen of that native plant that has frustrated your I.D. skills; there most certainly will be someone there who knows what it is.

### *“Living on the Edge”*

**Patt McDaniel, CNPS Horticulture Committee**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura**

Patt McDaniel will give an informative talk about how to plan your gardens with consideration for the natural environment. This issue is of particular interest to CNPS and people planting their landscape gardens in areas that are adjacent to, or near, native plant communities. Patt will point out some things that one should or should not do to ensure you are walking with a lite or small footprint on our natural communities.

### *“Fostering a Connection to our Natural Environment, Ethnobotany of California Native Plants, An Educational Tool”*

**Karen Osland, Ethnobotanist**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 17, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

Ms. Osland is currently employed as an Environmental Planner at Vandenberg Air Force Base. She has also worked as a Staff Archaeologist at Vandenberg AFB and as an archaeologist for CalTrans, Forest Service, and various independent environmental consultants. She and partner Kathy Badrak have been teaching classes and workshops on native California plant identification and plant uses for 15 years. They lead interpretative walks through various plant communities. A major theme of these walks is how the California Indians managed and utilized their local environment. Ms. Osland is a Docent at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Mission La Purisima, and a volunteer at Guadalupe Dunes Center. She is also an active member of the Central Coast Basket Weavers. The mission of this group is to preserve traditional knowledge of Chumash Indian basketry plants, and weaving techniques.

*Photographs in this issue of Matilija Copy are by David L. Magney ©2004.*

## Conservation Front – David Magney

### CNPS et al. vs. Coastal Commission & North Shore

CNPS and co-plaintiffs have dismissed the Appeal with the California Appeals Court over our loss in Superior Court in our lawsuit against the Coastal Commission et al. over the Commissions bad decision to permit the North Shore Development to destroy wetlands and other sensitive coastal habitats. The Sierra Club and Wetlands Action Network joined CNPS on the original lawsuit, and the settlement of our appeal. Many good things will happen as a result of our settlement. CNPS will receive approximately \$200,000 from the North Shore developers to be used by CNPS to identify suitable sites to establish Ventura Marsh Milkvetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*) populations and fund it's establishment into as many sites and possible. CNPS will help fund a technical advisory committee to guide this effort, which will be conducted in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other entities.

### Ahmanson Ranch Development

**We won, we won, we won!!!!** Ahmanson Ranch has been saved from development! As you have likely read in the newspapers, Washington Mutual Bank sold its Ahmanson Ranch property, located at the southeastern corner of Ventura County next to Calabasas to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Ahmanson Ranch is now public property and open to hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. While the cost per acre is quite high, the permanent protection of habitat for two endangered species, San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) and Red-legged Frog, is well worth it, not to mention avoiding all the other impacts the project would have had on the environment. You can all now reinvest in Washington Mutual as they have proven, in the end, to be good friends of the environment.

### Newhall Ranch Development

We Lost! The judge who required Los Angeles County to reevaluate some of the environmental resource impacts the huge (<22,000 homes) project would have on the environment decided that the additional environmental review was satisfactory, and has allowed the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to re-approve the project. CNPS and others who filed the lawsuit disagreed to no avail.

CNPS still believes that Newhall Land and Farming Company violated the unfair business practices laws over past years in their efforts to win approvals from politicians and failed to disclose what biological resources they had onsite when they found them. Now Newhall is taking their money and running out of town, selling the Ranch to Lennar Homes.

Visit the chapter website ([www.cnpsci.org](http://www.cnpsci.org)) "Issues" web page for the history and downloadable copies of CNPS comment letters of previous CEQA documents for this project.

### Fagan Canyon Development

Centex Homes, a large development company, is proposing to develop Fagan Canyon immediately northwest of Santa Paula into residential neighborhoods. Centex has taken a different approach to this project than most developers do, they have held numerous meeting and workshops in the community and have gone to great lengths to include all perspectives, including that of CNPS, before

they develop any specific development plans. But remember, they certainly intend to build a lot of homes and other facilities as needed. They will need to build quite a few houses to make a good return on their investment. CNPS participated in at least two meetings, including a tour of the canyon.

During those meetings, CNPS told Centex that CNPS rarely opposes any development projects; rather, CNPS is concerned that the project-related impacts to the botanical resources are properly and thoroughly identified and assessed during the environmental review process. We also told them that we expect to see scientifically sound baseline surveys conducted, and that all botanical resources, particularly the sensitive resources, be properly assessed for project-related impacts. We said that if they were not done appropriately, CNPS will likely file a lawsuit to compel them to be done properly. CNPS also told Centex to avoid the sensitive botanical resources onsite. Centex said they appreciated our forthrightness and candor, and would do everything in their power to see that our desires are met.

However, in this case Centex does not have control over the environmental review process; rather, that belongs to the City of Santa Paula that will hire the EIR consultant and direct their impact assessment activities. What Centex does have control over is where in Fagan Canyon they will build. We have not yet seen any environmental documents; however, we know that Rincon Consultants of Ventura did some biology field surveys in 2003, and that another firm will likely prepare the EIR. CNPS eagerly awaits the opportunity to read and critic the environmental documents, and hopes that an environmentally friendly development can be designed for Fagan Canyon without destroying the natural resources of that canyon.

*Stay tuned, and volunteer to review one or more of the documents.*

## Horticulture – Patt McDaniel

### Merry Christmas – California Style

[Editors note: Okay, it is after Christmas now, so consider this now for next Christmas.] The first emigrants that came from the East Coast to California were comforted to find a native plant that had beautiful red berries during the Christmas Holidays to bring cheer to their homes and remind them of their ancestral heritage. The leaves were even dark green with spiny serrations, much like the traditional Holly of Europe. They called this plant California Christmas Berry and Hollywood. It was so loved that they named a little town after it! You can still see this plant growing in the Hollywood Hills (which was originally called "Hollywoodland").

I am sure the native California peoples took great delight in the berries as well but they also valued the berries as food and the leaves and bark for medicinal tea for the stomach.



We call this plant Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). It is considered a small tree or a large shrub, growing from 10 to 25 feet in height with a similar spread. It grows throughout most of

California and is one of the easiest natives to grow. It tends to be multi-trunked and with a little thoughtful pruning can be a structurally distinctive and artistic component in the landscape. It is also one of the more readily available native plants and is an excellent native habitat plant that attracts birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.

There is still time to plant a Toyon so that soon you may have beautiful berries (and flowers) in your own yard. Almost any soil type, sun exposure or water regime is acceptable but a sunny well-drained slope is best for abundant flowers and berries. Some deep summer watering will be needed the first year or two to establish a good deep root system; then they can take it or leave it!

### Gardening on the Edge

I could repeat a conversation to you that went something like this: "I have just moved to a wonderful place, right on the edge of a natural area. I love it so much but it needs a lot of work and I want to do it right... in harmony with the special place I feel so fortunate to inhabit. I don't know very much about native plants. What should I do?"

"Well, the first thing to consider is that it is best to use very local natives so that the genetic makeup is compatible with the plants in your surroundings."

"Yes, I understand that that is important and that is what I want to do. Where can I get those plants?"

"Well..."

*Well, indeed, this is where the conversation stalls and takes a nosedive. Reading this you may think I am recounting a conversation that you and I had. Indeed, there may be about a dozen of you that I have had this conversation with... and experience tells me that that means that there are many more of you with whom I could have had this conversation, or one very similar!! So... where do we go from here?*

*There may never be a nursery that propagates plants using propagules (seeds and cuttings) from the plants growing in your local area, your watershed. If you are lucky, you may find someone locally who propagates a few plants, as much for a hobby as anything, who can supply you with a few plants. Chances are, however, that you will need to learn a little about natives and propagation...but take heart! This is not as difficult as you may have heard and it can be great fun! Remember, California Natives have gotten a reputation for being difficult from people who try to grow them where they do not ordinarily grow. You will be planting them exactly where they love to grow. Hey! What a concept!!*

*The first thing you will want to do is just look at the wonderful plants around you. Imagine how they might fit in the landscape. Observe the flowering and when they go to seed, collect the seed. Some seed is easy to see, some difficult. Most seed is ready to collect when it is hard and dry, but there are exceptions. Plants usually produce lots of seed, so don't worry about collecting a little. (You should do a little research to see if there are any rare and endangered plants in your area so you can be sure to not gather seed from them) You will want to plant your seeds in a flat – you can use a regular flat from the nursery, lined with newspaper and with a commercial seedling soil in it. (Yes, there are better mixes, but this will do for the novice.) You can plant a lot of seeds in one flat and even if you do not have great germination, you will probably have a few that prosper resulting in local landscape plants for your new home! You don't have to be a profitable production nursery; you just want some happy plants. I prefer to sow the seeds in rows and I keep notes so that when something comes up, I know what it is. This way, even if you don't know its name, you can write down something to describe it... in time you will learn the names of all the local plants if you are interested. Keep the flat watered, every morning unless it is rainy or drizzly. The soil dries out faster in a flat than the soil of the ground. You may need to protect the seedlings from storms that can wash the seeds out of the flat but other than that, they are home, they can take the weather and, since you are not a production nursery, you don't need to have every seed thrive. You may find that, even so, you will*

*soon have plants to give away to neighbors!*

*Yes, there is much, much more one can learn about creating a garden that transitions to the wild, or brings a little of the wild into the city, but this is a good start for someone with the interest and determination. One will want to learn more about getting the plants established, pruning and fire safety. The March program will discuss gardening on the interface and some of these topics will be discussed there. Attend if you can, but don't put off starting some seeds – there is nothing quite so rewarding as seeing a plant grown from a seed you once planted! Also, learn more about propagating from cuttings by joining us for the January program.*

**Happy Gardening!**

### A Special Thanks

Many wonderful volunteers showed up at the fall plant sale to lend a hand and they all deserve thanks but I would like to extend a very personal thanks to three volunteers. When I was surprised to find myself put in charge of arranging the plants, I was so fortunate to have Scott Ellison, Stuart Bloom and Lynne Kada on hand to respond to my every command, placing and moving plants (sometimes several times) without the slightest hesitation. Thanks, guys!!!

## Education – Sue Mills

### The Chumash Interpretive Garden

The Chumash Interpretive Garden at the Ojai Valley Museum began in 1997 and built by volunteers. Over 25 native plant species were chosen for both display and research purposes, related to their uses by local Native Americans, i.e. Chumash. While the Chumash were not agrarian, they interacted with their environment, and utilized plants native to the region for food, shelter, basketry fiber, dyes, medicine, cleansing, and tools.

The museum gave special attention to those native plants for the Chumash garden that included in the museum displays. Some of those plants included Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and Amole (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*). Toyon wood was used for bows while Amole was used in streams to stun fish or as soap.

The soil at the site of the garden had to be amended considerably to accommodate the native plants, which mostly prefer well-drained soils. A drip irrigation system was installed as well, but is used only to supplement natural rainfall. Jill Smith Shanbrom, an Ojai landscape designer, who heads the museum's garden committee, designed the layout of the museum's garden exhibit. Chumash representative Julie Tumamait-Stenslie and former museum curator Mary Kay Porter, and others helped design the garden.

Members of the community and CNPS will enjoy a visit to this little garden right in the heart of Ojai, at the Ojai Valley Museum. It is a great example of how to utilize natives in an ornamental garden, and plants are labeled with the botanical, common and the Chumash name and its use. The garden is actually an outdoor exhibit for the museum and is incorporated into children's programs on the Chumash by Julie Tumamait-Stenslie. Museum hours are Thurs- Fri, 1pm to 4pm, and Sat - Sun, 10am to 4pm. The museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Ave., and the garden is in the rear. The entrance fee is \$2.00, (free to Museum members). The Garden committee is currently looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping to maintain the exhibit. A work day will be announced soon, or you can contact Jill Smith Shanbrom at [pinkmoment@aol.com](mailto:pinkmoment@aol.com), or call 805/646-5175.

## FIELD TRIPS, HIKES, FORAYS, AND OTHER EVENTS

*Please join us on one or more of our events. You will enjoy yourself for sure!*

- 8 February, Sunday, 9 am.** Friends of the Santa Clara River Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Habitat Restoration Work Party. See article on Page 5 for details.
- 15 February, Saturday, 9 am. Chapter Hike to Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Ventura River/El Nido Reserve, Ojai Valley.** Leader: David Magney. Meet at preserve parking lot at corner of Rice Rd. and El Roblar in Meiners Oaks. Bring water and lunch, and hiking boots. We will need to cross water in the Ventura River. This will be a moderate hike. Call David for more information at 805/646-6045.
- 18 February, Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Chapter Program: "Propagating Native Plants from Seed and Cuttings"** Speaker: Christopher Bysshe, Propagation Specialist. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.
- 21 February, Saturday, 9 am to 1 pm. Chapter Castor Bean Eradication Work Party,** Thousand Oaks (Reinke project site). Time to weed wake and plant some natives along the small creek in the Conejo Valley near Rancho Road. Call Chris Bysshe at 805/901-0842 to RSVP. Snacks and drinks will be provided.
- 22 February, Sunday, 9 am. Fieldtrip to Burton Mesa Chaparral at the La Purisima Mission.** Join the northern Santa Barbara Subchapter on its annual winter fieldtrip to the Burton Mesa Chaparral on the La Purisima Mission grounds. Meet at the east end of Burton Mesa Blvd. in Mission Hills at 9 am for a chance to see the early bloomers and interesting scenery. Burton Mesa Blvd. can be reached from La Purisima Rd. or Constellation Rd. For more information call Charlie Blair at 805/733-3189.
- 28 February, Saturday, 9 am. Fieldtrip to Cerro Alto in San Luis Obispo County.** Leaders: Bill Shepard and Charlie Blair. Hike with us to enjoy the botanic and scenic treasures enroute to the summit of this peak. *Tentative* meeting at 8 AM at the SLO Vets' Hall parking lot, corner of Monterey St. & Grand Ave. in San Luis Obispo. Call Mardi Niles 805/489-9274 or Charlie Blair at 805/733-3189 for confirmation and details.
- 28 February, Saturday, 9 am. Chapter Hike to Mugu Peak and La Jolla Valley, Pt. Mugu State Park.** Leader: Ken Niessen. Meet at parking area along Pacific Coast Highway (CA State Route 1) across from SeaBee firing range near Mugu Rock.
- 6 March, Saturday, 9 am-5 pm. CNPS State Chapter Council Meeting.** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA. All members are welcome to attend. There is also an evening program with a catered dinner (reservations for dinner required). Call CNPS state office for details: 916/447-CNPS.
- 6 March, Saturday, 9 am.** Friends of the Santa Clara River Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Habitat Restoration Work Party. See article on Page 5 for details.
- 13 March, Saturday, 9 am. Chapter Hike up Upper Sisar Canyon.** Leader: Patt McDaniel. Meet at parking area at intersection of State Route 150 (Ojai-Santa Paula Rd.) and Sisar Road, Summit, Upper Ojai. You will see a nice riparian corridor, Ceanothus Chaparral, Coast Live Oak Woodland, and rare plants such as the Ojai Fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*). The lower portion of the trail burned a couple of years ago so there should be some interesting fire-following wildflowers up. Call Patt for more information at 805/646-9948.
- 17 March, Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Chapter Program: "Living on the Edge".** Speaker: Patt McDaniel. Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura.
- 27 March, Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm. Chapter Spring Plant Sale.** Plaza Park, Ventura, on Santa Clara Avenue.
- 4 April, Sunday, 9 am.** Friends of the Santa Clara River Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Habitat Restoration Work Party. See article on Page 5 for details.
- 17 April, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chapter Program: "Fostering a Connection to our Natural Environment, Ethnobotany of California Native Plants, An Educational Tool".** Speaker: Karen Osland, Ethnobotanist. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.
- 24 April, Saturday, 9 am. Broom Bash in Matilija Canyon.** Leader: Ken Niessen. Meet at end of Matilija Canyon Road. This will be a rewarding work party day as entire colonies of invasive exotic broom species will be eliminated from the Matilija Canyon Wilderness. Tools will be provided. Bring water and lunch, and gloves. Call Ken for details at 805/646-8650.
- 1 May, Saturday, 9am. Wildflower Seed Collecting.** Leader: Chris Bysshe. Join Chris on a morning of wildflower seed collecting. Learn the best seed collecting techniques. This is easy work, and the seeds will be used to prepare wildflower seed packets to be sold at the Chapter plant sales as a fundraiser. Call 805/901-0842 to RSVP.
- 19 May, Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Chapter Program: Plant Identification Workshop.** Speaker: David Magney, botanist. This will be a repeat, but different, of the workshop we had last spring. Bring your Jepson Manual of Munz and learn how to key out (identify) local native plants. Bring the plants you want to get to know better. This is a hands-on workshop. Bring your handlens too. Dissecting microscope will be provided. Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura.
- 15 June, Wednesday, 7:30 pm. Chapter Program: "Wildlife Corridors and Landscape Linkages".** Speaker: Liz Chattin, Biologist with Ventura County Planning Division.

## Vegetation – Ken Niessen

### Invasive Exotics – David Magney

The invasion is spreading like a cancer, much faster than any of us feared. Cape [German] Ivy (*Senecio mikanioides*), a vigorous perennial evergreen vine from South Africa, is smothering the native vegetation along State Route 150 on both sides of East Casitas Pass. It was first observed on the west side of the Pass sometime in 1998 and spreading somewhat by 2002 to both sides of the Pass. However, by last December it has started filling many of the little draws along the highway towards Lake Casitas. It especially likes to grow in shaded areas on north-facing slopes, and clambering over anything in its path, smothering, and killing whatever is under it by preventing enough light to reach the leaves of its “host” plant. Something really needs to be done to control this invasive weedy vine or it will take over hundreds of acres of our native chaparral, coastal sage scrub, and riparian habitats.



This is a close-up of the leaves and flowers of Cape Ivy. It twines itself onto and over other plants for support. The leaves are bright green and the flowers are yellow.



Cape Ivy has entirely covered every native plant under the canopy of the Coast Live Oak trees here on the east side of East Casitas Pass. This was not here in 2001, and has spread very fast since then.

## Santa Clara River Habitat Restoration Project

For the past 3 years people have been participating in a restoration project on The Hedrick Ranch, adjacent to the Santa Clara River near Santa Paula. One project has been successfully completed and a dense Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) thicket transformed into a diverse and productive riparian habitat. Restoration activities for this season will focus on an adjacent area, which is now under the Stewardship of The Friends of The Santa Clara River, known as the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area (HRNA). We will be working with volunteers from FSCR in efforts to re-establish willow-cottonwood forest and riparian meadows on the site of previously grazed pasturelands along the bank of the Santa Clara River. Volunteer participation days for this season are as follows:

- Sunday, 8 February 2004
- Saturday, 6 March 2004
- Sunday, 4 April 2004

Restoration activities will begin at 9 a.m. at The Audubon/Restoration Building at the HRNA and will last until noon. Birdwatchers may want to arrive earlier for self-guided birding onsite. It is recommended that sturdy hiking or gardening shoes be worn, as well as gloves. Some of the work is moderately physical, but most is relatively light work. We hope to see good participation from volunteers this year in the effort to restore additional habitat on the Santa Clara River and restore native plant communities thereby creating good birding sites for future generations.

Directions to the site are: from either direction on Highway 126 in Santa Paula, take the 10<sup>th</sup> Street off-ramp. Coming from Ventura, turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp. From Fillmore, turn right at the bottom of the off-ramp. Proceed to Harvard Blvd (1<sup>st</sup> stoplight) and turn right. Proceed to 12<sup>th</sup> Street and turn right, go under the freeway, and proceed south across Santa Clara River Bridge. 12<sup>th</sup> Street becomes South Mountain Rd. across the river. Follow South Mountain Rd. approximately 3.7 miles and turn north (left toward the river) at a green metal gate with address number 20395. Follow the agricultural road about ½ mile to the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area at the river. The restoration building is to the east immediately across Balcom drainage ditch. *Richard Sweet.*

## California Islands Symposium

The 6<sup>th</sup> California Islands Symposium was held at the Ventura Marriot on 1-3 December. Along with subjects from abalone to pygmy mammoths, there were of course, plant talks and posters. These included vegetation and weed mapping, habitat restoration, reproductive biology of native and invasive species, and genetic variation. There were a number of talks about work on our local northern Channel Islands. Researchers working with Kathryn McEachern (USGS/BRD Channel Island Field Station) reported on vegetation inventory work on Santa Cruz Island and genetic characterization of *Castilleja mollis* (a Santa Rosa Island endemic) individuals. Dieter Wilken of the Santa Ana Botanic Garden talked about the reproductive biology of the *Arabis hoffmanii* (an endangered Santa Cruz Island endemic). There were other talks about various aspects of vegetation recovery and recruitment by Mary Carroll, Larry Loeher, and Steve Ortega, pollination ecology of *Centaurea melitensis* and *C. solstitialis* by Jim Bartell, and dune stabilization of an archeological site using native grass by G. Hawley. To see abstracts of the talks go to [www.cnpsci.org/cis/cis2003](http://www.cnpsci.org/cis/cis2003). *Ken Niessen*

## ¿Obscure Botany Trivia Question?

### Winter 2003-2004 Botanical Trivia Question

How many of the 8 California Channel Islands are within Ventura County and what is it's/are their name(s)?

Send your answers to David Magney via email or mail to PO Box 6, Ojai, CA 93024-0006. Winners and answers will be announced in the next issue of Matilija Copy, and winners will receive a botanically oriented book as a prize.

For the Autumn 2003 Botanical Trivia Question I asked, "What am I referring to when I say, "according to Agenda 21"? I gave a hint that Agenda 21 is often mentioned in Europe. **Patt McDaniel** correctly answered the question and is our botanical trivia question winner. Agenda 21 refers to one of the items in the recommendations most world nations adopted that would have nations and local governments do everything in their power to reduce their impact on the environment.

## www.cnpsci.org

Remember to visit the Channel Islands Chapter website regularly (at least bi-weekly). We try to update it regularly, so keep checking it. The website includes chapter contacts, membership information, and various articles on: conservation, horticulture, and education issues. It has a page dedicated to rare plants, including definitions, lists of rare plants from the region. There is a page on horticulture, and soon a page on invasive exotics. The website also includes a current listing of programs (both CNPS and by related organizations), hikes, botany forays, workshops, symposia, conferences, and CNPS meetings.

Photographs and drawings of locally native plants are spread throughout the website. The site also includes many excellent links to other interesting and informative websites. Be sure to visit it at least once a month at a minimum. Note: the "last updated" date on the various web pages does not necessarily reflect recent updates.

## Herbology – David Magney

Rose hips are known to be very high in Vitamin C. You can find Rose Hips tea and Vitamin C tables made from Rose Hips at your local grocery and health food stores. Rose hips are the fruit of the rose, which is a roundish red fruit that typically ripens in the fall. A bounty of native rose hips from California Wild Rose (*Rosa californica*) can be found along many of our streams in the Ventura and Santa Barbara backcountry. On the last weekend in November I found many California Wild Rose bushes along Lion Canyon trail (north side of Nordhoff Ridge with the trailhead at Middle Lion Campground at the end of the Rose Valley Road. I picked some ripe rose hips and chewed on them, finding the reddest ones to be somewhat sweet, and full of Vitamin C.

## President's Message – Lynne Kada

Please note, as you vote for your Chapter 2004 Board Officers, that this is my final President's Message because, after being president for more than 4 years, it is time for other chapter members to consider running for Chapter President. Please also note that three of our newer members have volunteered to run for office, including newest member who has volunteered to become our Chapter Treasurer. Please also note that even with these new volunteers, a few of YOUR Chapter Board member positions will remain unfilled.

Additionally, your Chapter still needs more members to VOLUNTEER to actively support your chapter and take on [fill] specific chapter positions – such as Newsletter Editor, so your newsletter can be prepared and mailed out on a more regular basis [for example, this newsletter is often late because those that work on it are already overwhelmed with other chapter and related efforts]. Yes, everyone is busy, however, when our chapter has additional active volunteers working on Chapter committees/projects, your chapter and chapter volunteers will be able to ACCOMPLISH MORE in LESS TIME and will have a wider range of volunteer representation!

Your Chapter needs YOU to volunteer for at least the positions of Legislation, Newsletter Editor [the newsletter is produced using MS Word and templates and examples are available], Program Chair, and Outing Chair [several Chapter Members would be available to provide information about potential speakers and outing leaders], Plant Sale Coordinator [someone to organize our this event which occurs only twice yearly, Plant Sale organization is not too onerous or time consuming these days] and Website Coordinator [the Chapter has available the Dream Weaver software for use by the Website Coordinator]. Several Chapter Positions would benefit from your help to be part of committees to support Horticulture, Conservation, Education, and Special Events, etc.

So – volunteer for one thing to make the efforts of each Chapter volunteer, Officer, and Program Coordinator easier! To date, chapter members have already planned several fun and interesting Channel Islands Chapter native plant opportunities:

Great programs – See the list of programs in the newsletter.

Spring Plant Sale scheduled for Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Annual Meeting, now scheduled for the end of September, as an outdoor catered event at a local winery [Let us know if you would like to help with the organizing and outreach for this event]

Interesting outings

Propagation, seed collecting, and restoration events, including planning for establishment of a propagation area and efforts to re-establish populations of the Ventura Marsh Milkvetch, the Reinke Restoration Project, and events coordinated with other like-minded organizations and/or other Chapters;

New and continuing horticultural, education, and school garden outreach efforts.

Coordination of efforts to ground-truth populations of species of local concern, including the potential for members to take both the GPS and GIS Project classes at Ventura College so they can use the new College Trimble GPS units to create shapefile locations that can be directly downloaded into our GIS software program and then for this information to be layered on the aerial imagery owned by the Chapter. Contact Lynne Kada and/or David Magney for information about these classes and their relationship to this project

Please Contact any Chapter Officer for information about how you can support chapter activities! The last page of this newsletter has email and telephone contact information.

Special thanks to outgoing Treasured **Dirk Rodriguez** for all his work as Treasurer these last three years and **Patt McDaniel** for her work as Horticulture Chair and Secretary for several years – Patt has, however, offered to volunteer to continue as a Chapter Member-At-Large.

Hope you all had a good Holiday Season and a Great Year in 2004 and that you will be able to ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE in YOUR CHAPTER native plant projects and events in 2004!

*Lynne Kada*

## Ballot to Elect Channel Islands Chapter Officers for 2004

Please vote and clip this ballot out and mail to the CNPS, Channel Islands Chapter Secretary at  
PO Box 6, Ojai, CA 93024-0006

A slate of candidates are presented below for your consideration. Please vote for one person for each office, or you may write-in another; however, that person must be a current member of CNPS and be willing to serve. The terms will begin with the second Channel Islands Chapter Board of Directors meeting in 2004, which will be in early February 2004. Mail in your ballot by 31 January 2004. Thank you for voting.

President	___ David L. Magney	VP Ventura County	___ Lynne Kada
VP Santa Barbara County	___ Charlie Blair	Secretary	___ Cher Batchelor
Treasurer	___ Elizabeth Chattin	Member-At-Large 1	___ Christopher Bysshe
Member-At-Large 2	___ Patt McDaniel	Member-At-Large 3	___ Scott Brown
write-in for _____	___ _____	write-in for _____	___ _____

A number of other positions are open and need someone like you to volunteer to fill. We need your help. Open positions include: Newsletter Editor, Education Committee Chair, Plant Sale Coordinator, Program Coordinator, Field Trips Coordinator, Invasive Exotics Coordinator, Conservation Chair, and Legislation Chair. Besides these, there is always a need for people to help with these committees.

If you are interested in filling, or helping with, any of these positions, please state your desire below.

Yes, I ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) am interest in helping the Channels Islands Chapter by serving as \_\_\_\_\_, or assisting with the \_\_\_\_\_ committee/position. My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_; email \_\_\_\_\_.

### RARE PLANTS – DAVID MAGNEY

#### Ventura County Rare Plants

Remember that a checklist of vascular plants rare or uncommon in Ventura County has been developed, and revised regularly. Currently there are 1,441 plants listed as at least locally rare (10 or fewer populations in Ventura County, including those found on Anacapa and San Nicolas Islands and about 162 taxa expected to occur within the County but not yet supported by voucher specimens). You can download a copy of the most recent version (dated 4 January 2004 as of this writing) of the checklist from the chapter website at [www.cnpsci.org/html/PlantInfo/RarePlants2.htm](http://www.cnpsci.org/html/PlantInfo/RarePlants2.htm) and click on the title of the checklist to get it. I update the checklist about once a month. Review the list and see if you can find new populations, and maybe remove some of them from the list of locally rare. We suspect more populations of a number of these plants are out there, we just don't know where. Report any finds of the 1,441 taxa to me at [dmagnev@aol.com](mailto:dmagnev@aol.com) or by phone at 805/646-6045.

#### Santa Barbara County Rare Plants

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, through Dieter Wilken, has developed, at the request of CNPS and part of their mission, a list of vascular plants that are rare in Santa Barbara County, using similar, but not exactly the same, criteria used for Ventura County. The list is available upon request from Dr. Wilken. As for the Ventura County list, the Santa Barbara County list is dynamic, changing regularly as new data are received. CNPS has this checklist on the chapter website also.

### PAST HIKE REVIEWS

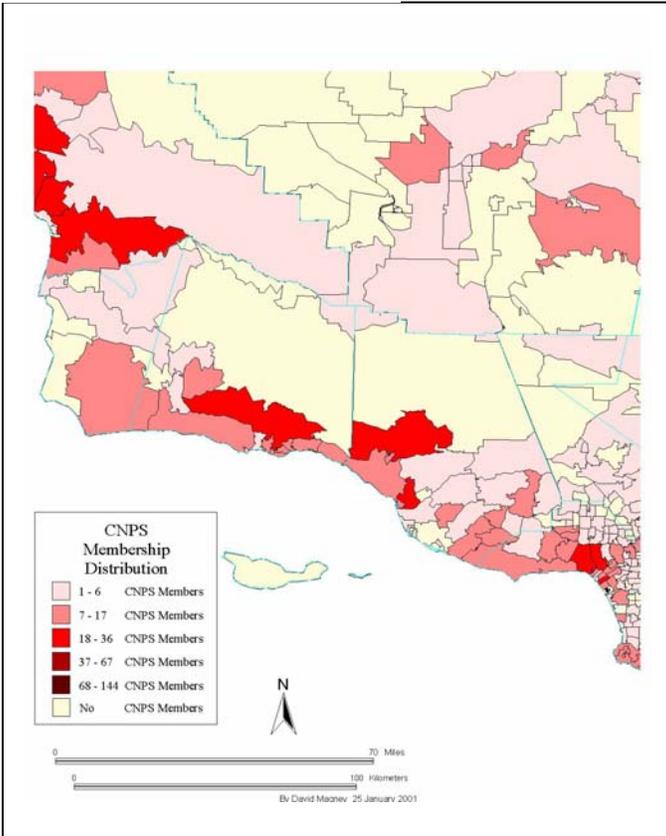
**Hike to Murietta Canyon on 8 November 2003 with Ken Niessen:** Cloudy skies and the conflicting chapter plant sale resulted in relatively few people participating in the Murrieta Canyon hike. Nevertheless, we set off in search of the elusive local fall colors. It turned out that while colorful leaves were hard to come by (we did see *Juglans californica*, *Platanus racemosa* and *Salix lasiolepis* looking yellow) there were a number of plants flowering, including *Lessingia filaginifolia*, *Epilobium canum*, *Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii*, and *Lepidospartum squamatum*. The eventual light drizzle seemed to make the ferns stand out. These included *Aspidotis californica*, *Pteridium aquilinum* var. *pubescens*, *Woodwardia fimbriata*, *Pellaea mucronata*, *P. andromedifolia*, and *Dryopteris arguta*. We also saw several rare or interesting species - *Garrya veatchii*, *Lepechinia calycina*, and *Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*, and some nasty invasive weeds - *Cortaderia (?)selloana*, *Genista monspessulanus*, and *Spartium junceum*. In total we saw over 100 taxa in the canyon, many in their off-season inconspicuous (dead-looking) forms.

**Hike to Spruce Falls:** While this was not a CNPS-sponsored hike, it is indeed a wonderful hike that Nancy Breslin and I (David Magney) took after Thanksgiving. The fall colors of the cottonwood, willow, and sycamore trees were a great contrast to the deep green on the Bigcone Spruce trees on the shaded north-facing slopes and grey-green of the chaparral on the south-facing slopes. The trailhead for this hike is at Middle Lion Campground at the end of the Rose Valley Road off State Route 33 north of Ojai. At Spruce Falls there are some wonderful pools under a nice water cascade (the falls), and the only known place in Ventura County where Elk Clover (*Aralia californica*) grows. This is a nice and easy hike anytime of the year.

Channel Islands Chapter  
P.O. Box 6  
Ojai, CA 93024



Non-Profit Organization  
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**PERMIT NO. 398**



## TIME VALUE MATERIAL

### Channel Islands Chapter Officers/Program Contacts

Office/Position	Name	Phone #	Email Address
President*:	Lynne Kada	643-4842	lynnekada@yahoo.com
Vice President*:	Patt McDaniel	646-9948	mcins@west.net
Secretary*:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Treasurer*:	Elizabeth Chattin	send to PO Box 6, Ojai, CA 93024	
Conservation*:	David Magney	646-6045	dmagney@aol.com
Vegetation/PlantScience*:	Ken Niessen	646-8650	kgniessen@ojai.net
Education*:	Sue Mills	649-2270	ladybug@ojai.net
Horticulture*:	Patt McDaniel	646-9948	mcins@west.net
Legislation*:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Rare Plant Coord. (V):	Rick Burgess	983-1312	
Rare Plant Coord. (SB):	Steve Junak	682-4726	sjunak@sbbg.org
Membership:	Rita DePuydt	640-3700	suncoast@west.net
Newsletter Editor:	David Magney	646-6045	dmagney@aol.com
Periodic Plant Watch:	Rick Burgess	983-1312	
Invasive Exotics:	Kirk Waln	650-9845	kkwaln@earthlink.net
Programs:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Program Facilitator (SB):	Barbara Farnsworth	684-1516	barb.farnsworth@verison.net
Program Facilitator (V):	Richard Bradley	646-6633	
Publicity:	Connie Rutherford	339-9779	Ruthercam@earthlink.net
Field Trips:	Barbara Farnsworth	684-1516	barb.farnsworth@verison.net
Plant Sales:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Poster Sales:	Scott Brown	644-6637	sbrown5534@aol.com
No.SB Co.Subchapter Liason:	Charlie Blair	733-3189	blairce@sbceo.org
Member-At-Large*:	Kirk Waln	650-9845	kkwaln@earthlink.net
Member-At-Large*:	Chris Bysshe	646-8090	cbysshe@yahoo.com
Member-At-Large*:	Scott Brown	644-6637	SBrown5534@aol.com
Webmaster	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		

(All telephone numbers are in Area Code 805)

\* = officer (voting)

### CNPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Category	Annual Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Retired/Limited Income .....	\$ 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Library .....	\$ 35
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Group .....	\$ 45
<input type="checkbox"/> Supporting .....	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover .....	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron .....	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....	\$500

I wish to affiliate with the Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please do not share my address with any other organization

Send Membership application and check to:  
California Native Plant Society (or CNPS)  
2707 K Street, Suite 1  
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

Note: We send two free Matilija Copy issues to non-members who wish to become acquainted with CNPS. You may subscribe to Matilija Copy for one year with a \$5-donation to the chapter. Call Rita DePuydt, Membership Coordinator, to subscribe. CNPS/Channel Islands Chapter members automatically receive this newsletter.