



# Matilija Copy

Volume 17, Issue 1

Editor: David L. Magney

April-June 2004

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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

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

**Karen Osland, Ethnobotanist**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, 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.

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

### *"Native Plant Identification Workshop"*

**David Magney/Cher Batchelor/Ken Niessen, Botanists**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 19, Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura**

Learn how to identify native plants! This will be a repeat of the workshop we had last spring, but with different plants. Bring your Jepson Manual or 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 hand lens too. Dissecting microscope will be provided. Local botanists David Magney, Cher Batchelor, and Ken Niessen will provide tips on how to identify a variety of plant groups at this workshop. Call David, Ken, or Cher for more information (numbers listed on back page).

### *"Wildlife Corridors and Landscape Linkages"*

**Liz Chattin, Biologist**

**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 16, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

Ms. Chattin, a biologist with Ventura County Planning Division and a herpetologist, will give a presentation on wildlife movement corridors and habitat linkages between natural and human landscapes. Each species of wildlife and plant has its own habitat requirements and intricate web of connections with other species in the natural landscape. Human activities and developments have varying affects on wildlife and natural habitats. How to protect them with an expanding human population is a real challenge. Decisions by planners and decisionmakers can make a big difference to how we can maintain natural populations of plants and wildlife.

### *"Botany of Sweden and Norway"*

**David L. Magney, Botanist of Swedish Ancestry**

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

Join David on a tour of Sweden and Norway and observe some of the landscapes and native plants of these two northern countries. Mr. Magney has traveled to Sweden and Norway three times, starting in 1992 to find his Swedish roots (and wildflowers). His great grandfather was from Småland, Sweden, which is where Carl Linnaeus was also born. Linnaeus is considered the Father of Botany and invented the binominal naming conventions used today by scientists. David traveled from the southern tip of Sweden to above the Arctic Circle on his travels.

## Conservation Front

### Camarillo Regional Park

Carol Rosendahl, a naturalist, geologist, civil engineer, and writer, has taken it upon herself to become informed about the natural resources of Camarillo Regional Park, and the Ventura County Parks Department's plans for the park.

She found out that Ventura County Parks Department is moving forward with plans to build a golf course at Camarillo Regional Park. Ms. Rosendahl prepared a detailed "Land Use Primer" for the park in late March 2004, which provides a good summary of the history of the park.



*Aerial photo of western portion of Camarillo Regional Park (1998). The park extends further eastward and a little to the south. Calleguas Creek represents the western boundary and Cal. State University, Channel Islands is located immediately to the south.*

CNPS successfully challenged an amphitheater and golf course development proposed at this park in 1998 because of the tremendous impacts that proposal would have had on the environment and the fact that aspects of the project violated County General Plan policies and guidelines. Needing to have park facilities that provide funding for the Parks Department (the Dept. receives no General Fund monies), the Dept. is in the mode of developing golf courses that generate fees rather than manage the County park lands for open space or habitat for native plants and wildlife. This funding problem for the Parks Dept. should change. Regardless, is a golf course, no matter what size, an appropriate use of Camarillo Regional Park? The Calleguas Creek Watershed Management Plan Committee has identified Camarillo Regional Park as one of ten high priority sites for wetland and floodplain restoration within the Calleguas Creek watershed. Will a golf course project prohibit or minimize such potential?

If you have not done so, be sure to visit this unique Ventura County park. CNPS urges you to contact your County Supervisor now to voice your concerns.

### Ahmanson Ranch Development

The ranch has been saved from development and is now a park run by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. Attend a CNPS hike to see the new park and the endangered San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) in late April (see the Calendar of Events for details).

## Ventura Hillside

As everyone in Ventura knows, the landowners of the Ventura Hills, north and east of the City of San Buenaventura (Ventura) have been trying to convert their property into cash. Last year they put to a vote of Ventura citizens a plan to develop over a thousand expensive homes in the canyons and hillsides north of town, and were soundly defeated. Some of the landowners that had backed out of the proposal before the vote now want to develop their portion, with only 600 homes. Both proposals would likely significantly impact the botanical resources of the Ventura Hills. To facilitate preservation of the hills north of Ventura, a group of citizens got together to form the Ventura Hillside Conservancy (VHC). CNPS has been assisting the Conservancy in their efforts.

Congratulations to the VHC for being chosen by the University of California Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Studies to conduct a study of the Ventura Hills. The Bren School will be performing two major tasks for the Conservancy. The first is to characterize the habitat associations and plant series of the coastal hillsides and transverse mountain range north and east of the City of Ventura. The second task will be to develop a property acquisition plan for the Conservancy's target region based on ecological, recreational, and financial values of particular properties. This regional landscape analysis will be performed using aerial photography, historical records, and other pertinent resources. The Channel Islands Chapter of CNPS will be providing technical assistance as well. Call Chris Bysshe at 805/646-8090 if you wish to get involved with this project.

The VHC and the Channel Islands Chapter of CNPS (CNPSCI) teamed up and held an educational outreach event regarding Ventura hillside's wildflower populations. The **Wildflower Walkabout** was a celebration of the arrival of spring and the hillside wildflowers. The event was organized for all ages, with special activities for youth and adults, and was very well attended.

The centerpiece event for Wildflower Walkabout were guided hikes by botanists Ken Niessen, Cher Batchelor, and Chris Bysshe and VHC artists. Ken and Cher work for David Magney Environmental Consulting in Ojai and Chris works for BioResource Consultants, also in Ojai. Participants learned about and had an opportunity to **sketch wildflowers along the trails** while learning local botany. Separate hikes were conducted for children and adults, so that educational information could be geared appropriately. Back in the park, a group mural project was conducted, and Ventura singer-songwriter **J. Peter Boles** perform his blend of folk, country, and bluegrass.

The VHC is dedicated to permanently preserving the hillsides, canyons, and open space that contribute to the unique character and natural environment of the City of San Buenaventura and its surrounding region.

CNPSCI whole-heartedly supports the mission of the VHC. CNPSCI is happy to be providing botanical consulting and other types of services to the Conservancy in order to further their mission to protect the Ventura hillsides and its native vegetation.

Contributions to the Conservancy are tax-exempt. Further information about the Conservancy is available on their website [www.venturahillside.org](http://www.venturahillside.org). CONTACT: Stephen Svete, Ventura Hillside Conservancy, 805/701-4245 or email at [press@venturahillside.org](mailto:press@venturahillside.org). Steve is a planner with Rincon Consultants, located in Ventura.

## Horticulture

### Native Plants in Your Garden – David Magney

Some of you remembered to come by and buy native plants at our March 27<sup>th</sup> plant sale in Ventura, but many more forgot, and missed out on that opportunity. What is a native plant? A native plant is a plant that grows naturally in a specific geographic area. Such as California or Ventura County, or the Santa Monica Mountains. Some native plants have very wide distribution, such as North America. Others are more localized. The most localized plants are called narrow endemics, such as some of the *Dudleya* species that grow only in the Conejo Mountains portion of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Each plant has requirements and tolerances for healthy growth. We have a good understanding of such things for some plants. By definition, a native plant that is native to Ventura or Santa Barbara Counties is adapted to growing in this region. However, don't expect a native plant that grows naturally on the beach to grow well in Ojai. The microclimate and soils are quite different. The habitats in your yard are almost certainly different from that of almost all native, and non-native plants, except of course those annoying weeds that seem to grow everywhere, even after you kill them dead.

Some gardeners desiring native plants will be quite frustrated by the lack of availability of plants native to their home, or can only find cultivars of native species. Why is this? Wholesale nurseries grow only those plants that they can sell to retailers regularly and in good quantities. Horticulturalists are famous for breeding specific attributes out of plants, be they native or exotic. Many of the California native plants you find at retail nurseries are cultivars. Cultivars may be hybrids, resulting from specialized breeding for specific characteristics, or just unusual forms of a plant, reproduced vegetatively only through asexual propagation.

*Ceanothus* and *Arctostaphylos* species are often found only as cultivars, under many names.

So, if you want a "pure" native plant, how can you find it? First, specifically request from the retail nurseries what you want. In time, when demand is there, the wholesale and retail nurseries will get the message. Until then, you will have to hunt far and wide, or just collect seeds or cuttings of the plants you want and grow them yourself - something that is actually not that hard to do.

Selecting native plants for your garden is not easy. You need to consider the environmental conditions of the planting site (exposure to sun, climate conditions [heat, frost, humidity], soil texture, and drainage). One of the best ways to determine whether a locally native plant will survive where you want to plant it is to visit the native populations near your home and examine the environmental conditions in which it grows naturally. Mimic those conditions as much as possible in your yard.

Two basic problems exist with growing local natives in your garden: too much irrigation and inadequate drainage. Solve these potential or real problems and you will usually succeed in growing locally native plants.

Nancy and I are slowly converting the landscaping in our yard in Ojai to natives, leaving some of the interesting exotic species that the former owner had installed. We plan to plant *Ribes speciosum* (Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry – see a picture on Page 7) and *Ribes*

*californicum* (Hillside or California Gooseberry) on the north side of the house where there is good shade.



We plan to plant *Ribes malvaceum* (Chaparral Currant - above) on the east side of the house where it only receives morning sun, replacing the Hibiscus shrubs that don't really like the Ojai heat or the winter frost.

We have already planted *Salvia apiana* (White Sage) in a rock-lined bed on the south side of the house, where it gets lots of hot sun and has excellent drainage. We are thinking about ripping out part of the lawn in the back yard and replacing it with *Achillea millefolium* (White Yarrow). To see a good example, visit Cluff Vista Park in downtown Ojai (right in front of my office).



*White Yarrow as mowed groundcover at Cluff Vista Park in Ojai*

The Channel Islands Chapter will be having its next plant sale in October or November. Think about what you want, and send us your wish list and we will do our best to get Matilija Nursery (our supplier) to fill those orders.

### Native Plant Propagation Program

Chapter native plant propagation program continues. A wildflower seed-collecting outing is planned for 1 May 2004 (see Calendar of Events on Page 4). If interested in participating call Chris Bysshe at 805/646-8090.

### Gardening on the Edge – Patt McDaniel

As discussed in March's program, deciding what plants to use in your garden when you live near natural vegetation is important to consider. Issues of concern relate to contamination of the native flora gene pool through hybridization with pollen from cultivated plants. Most plantings are not a problem. However, some species readily cross-pollinate, and the native gene pool of a local native species may be altered through cross-pollination. This MAY adversely alter the natural gene pool and reduce the native population's ability to tolerate the local climate, or reduce its ability to evolve with the change in climate.

Cultivars are often highly modified species that are cultivated and breed specifically for certain horticultural characteristics. The cultivars may lack the ability to tolerate minor changes in the environment when compared to a native population. Species of Penstemon have a good ability to readily hybridize between native and cultivated plants.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

**21 April 2004, 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. S. B. Botanic Garden. See Page 1 for details.

**22 April 2004, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Earth Day 2004 at Cal State University Channel Islands.** This Earth Day event will take place on campus at the Mall area in front of Bell Tower. There will be entertainment, food, informational booths by local companies, government agencies, and non-profit organizations (including CNPS), hands-on exhibits, and children's activities. Exhibitors will include alternative energy organizations and businesses focused on (guess what) energy issues and technology. Also present will be alternative transportation exhibits, displaying and promoting alternative forms of transportation. The children's area will provide hands-on displays, activities, or entertainment for visiting school children. Community organizations and businesses will be present who promote a healthy environment including the following issue areas: preservation of open space, ocean and watershed resources, botanics, organics, clean air, animal rescue preservation, and ecotourism.

**22 April 2004, Thursday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Earth Day 2004 at Great Pacific Ironworks, Ventura.** Patagonia is sponsoring an Earth Day event in the parking lot in front of their retail store, Great Pacific Ironworks, to offer information on the environment and how citizens can be most effective in minimizing impacts of the Earth. CNPS Channel Islands Chapter will have a table at this event, along with 14 other environmental organizations and groups. Great Pacific Ironworks is located at the west end of Santa Clara Street in old town Ventura. From Santa Barbara, take the Main St. exit off US101 (before the SR33 interchange) and turn Right at the light at Garden St. From Oxnard and places south, take US101 to the California St. exit, turn Left onto Thompson Blvd., take Thompson to Santa Clara St. after passing Ventura Ave., and turn Left, and take Santa Clara to it's terminus at Great Pacific Ironworks. From Ojai, take SR33 south to the Main St. exit. At the light at Main St., jog Right/across Main St. to the south. One more block and you are there.

**24 April 2004, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. 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.

**24 April 2004, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Hike to Ahmanson Ranch/San Fernando Valley Spineflower.** Join Mary Meyer, California Fish and Game botanist, and David Magney on an easy hike to see the San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*), an endangered species, and other interesting plants. This is the ranch that CNPS and many others fought hard to protect from being developed by Washington Mutual Bank, which finally sold it to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy late last year. We will meet at the entrance gate to the park. The populations of the San Fernando Valley Spineflower are protected and off-limits except through special arrangement. **RSVP required.** Call or email David Magney at 805/646-6045 (office) or [dmagney@aol.com](mailto:dmagney@aol.com) by Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> to reserve your space.

**25 April 2004, Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m. EARTH DAY. Oak Grove School.** CNPS will have a booth at the Earth Day event at the Oak Grove School in Ojai (Meiners Oaks).

**1 May 2004, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Wildflower Seed Collecting and Hike.** Leader: Chris Bysshe. Join Chris and members of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy on a morning of wildflower viewing and 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 805/646-8090 to RSVP and find out where to meet.

**19 May 2004, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. 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 or 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 hand lens too. Dissecting microscope will be provided. Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura.

**22 May 2004, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Hike to Piedra Blanca/Twin Forks.** Leader: David Magney. Join David and other botanists on this return to the Piedra Blanca trail to see what wildflowers will be showing up the second year after the Wolf Fire. The wildflower display along this trail last year was fabulous. See which plants return and what new species sprout. The dominant vegetation should have also resprouted substantially. Bring drinking water, lunch, a hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, and sturdy hiking shoes. We will meet at the parking area west of the Ojai Ford dealership on Ojai Avenue, just east of "The Y" intersection (junction of SR33 and SR150) as you enter Ojai. We will then carpool/caravan to the trailhead near Lions Camp (east end of the road to Rose Valley), meeting there about 9:30 a.m. Contact David at 805/646-6045 weekdays or via email at [dmagney@aol.com](mailto:dmagney@aol.com).

**16 June 2004, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chapter Program: "Wildlife Corridors and Landscape Linkages".** Speaker: Liz Chattin, Biologist with Ventura County Planning Division. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara. See Page 1 for details.

**26 June 2004, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. Hike to Thorn Meadows/Fishbowls.** Leader: David Magney. Join David for a botany foray/hike in the Ventura County backcountry under Jeffrey and Ponderosa Pines in the upper watershed of Piru Creek. It has been over a decade since we had a hike to this beautiful part of Ventura County. Meet at the Thorn Meadows campground at 10 a.m.. Directions: SR33 north from Ventura/Ojai to Lockwood Valley Rd. (at Ozena), turn Right and drive 16.5 miles to Thorn Meadows/Mutau Flats Rd. turnoff. The turnoff to Thorn Meadows is about 7.5 miles from Lockwood Valley Rd. You might want to camp at Thorn Meadows the night before. Camping spaces are limited and primitive. The elevation at Thorn Meadows is about 5,000 feet. Contact David Magney for more details.

**21 July 2004, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Chapter Program: "Botany of Sweden and Norway".** Speaker: David Magney, Botanist. Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura. See the landscapes and wildflowers of Scandinavia. See Page 1 for details.

*Continued from Page 3* Other species that you might consider for planting in your yard may be invasive and escape into the wild. The results may be devastating to the native flora. Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) is one example of a commonly planted ornamental grass (from South Africa) that has escaped, now growing along SR1 from Pt. Mugu to Malibu and along US101 along the Rincon. It can also be seen along the Ojai Freeway near Shell Road to near the end of the freeway.

So, please be careful what species of plants you grow in your yard, and avoid those invasive exotics and hybridized natives that could harm the native flora. If you want natives in your yard, make the effort to use unaltered (genetically through hybridization) species, and those that indeed grow in your area.

## Education

### Pierpont School "Nature Walk"

Pierpont Elementary School and CNPSCI are planning a workday to enhance the educational resources of the Pierpont School's "Nature Walk" on Saturday November 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This native plant garden represents eight major habitats types that occur between the Channel Islands to the top of Topatopa Mountain Range. If interested in participating please contact Chris Bysshe at 805/646-8090.

## Vegetation – Ken Niessen

### Invasive Exotics

Our efforts last year to control French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) in the Matilija Wilderness on the Upper North Fork Matilija Creek are showing success. Last year, with Terry Austin of the U.S. Forest Service, we removed several hundred plants, a significant proportion of which were reproductive adults. A few weeks ago, I saw no reproductive adults, only several hundred first-year plants under two feet tall. These represent a large part of the seed bank that was in the soil last year. At this size, they are easy to pull and eliminate, and after a few springs of pulling new plants, no more should come up. Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*) in the same area seems to be on a natural decline, so perhaps after a few years of cutting back big plants and uprooting smaller plants it too can be eliminated.

There is a section of the nearby Murietta Trail that also has both Spanish and French Brooms. While not in a Wilderness Area, the populations are small enough that they can be controlled with modest initial and follow-up efforts. The Murietta Trail is fairly short (about 1 mile), but interesting, with at least eight fern species and populations of Pitcher Sage (*Lepechinia calycina*) and Fish's Milkwort (*Polygala cornuta* var. *fishiae*) [note: see article about Fish's Milkwort on Page 7]. It is worth protecting from nasty invasives, and will be the next broom control location on the Channel Islands Chapter's list.

### Highlighted Plant Community

We will try to include a description and discussion about a native plant community in each newsletter. This newsletter, **Cher Batchelor**, Ecologist with David Magney Environmental Consulting and Channel Islands Chapter Secretary chose to write about the **Southern California Black Walnut Woodland**, which occurs primarily in Ventura County, extending south and east to Los Angeles County.

### Southern California Black Walnut Woodland– Cher Batchelor

Southern California Black Walnut Woodland (or California Walnut Series according to Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf in CNPS's *Manual of California Vegetation*, published in 1995) is dominated by *Juglans californica* var. *californica* (Southern California Black Walnut), a broad-leaved winter-deciduous tree that blooms from March to May. It has gray-brown bark, toothed leaflets, and spherical, leathery-husked fruit (walnuts). *Juglans californica* var. *californica* is a locally common endemic, ranging from coastal southern California from Santa Barbara County to Los Angeles County, found on canyon slopes at elevations between 50 and 900 meters. It is a facultative wetland species, and is a special-status plant species (CNPS List 4 [limited distribution]). Southern California Black Walnut Woodland is a fragmented and declining natural plant community, and is threatened by urbanization and grazing.

California Walnut Series forms an open to closed canopy (generally less than 10 meters tall) growing over an intermittent shrub stratum and a sparse or grassy ground layer. This woodland requires deep, shale-derived, intermittently flooded/saturated soils of freshwater riparian corridors, floodplains, incised canyons, seeps, stream banks, at elevations between 150 and 900 meters.

Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia*) is typical as a co-dominant contributing to the tree canopy, while the common understory shrubs include: *Artemisia californica* (California Sagebrush), *Baccharis pilularis* (Coyote Brush), *Ceanothus spinosus* (Greenbark Ceanothus), *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon), *Leymus condensatus* (Giant Wildrye), *Lotus scoparius* (Deerweed), *Salvia mellifera* (Purple Sage), and *Toxicodendron diversilobum* (Poison Oak). The ground layer usually includes several introduced annual grass species, and may consist of conspicuously flowering herbs such as *Calystegia macrostegia* ssp. *intermedia* (Morning-glory), *Claytonia perfoliata* (Miners Lettuce), *Gnaphalium californicum* (Green Everlasting), *Hirschfeldia incana* (Summer Mustard), *Nassella pulchra* (Purple Needlegrass), *Paeonia californica* (California Peony), *Scrophularia californica* ssp. *floribunda* (Many-flowered Figwort), *Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue-eyed Grass), and *Verbena lasiostachys* (Western Verbena).

One of the best places to see Southern California Black Walnut Woodland is along State Route 150 between Summit and Sulphur Springs along Sisar Creek. Summit is the small community (human) at the east end of the Upper Ojai Valley. Sulphur Springs is the even small human settlement near the old Ferndale Ranch (now St. Thomas Aquinas College) where you smell the awful rotten-egg smell. The mountain slope on the south side of the highway is dominated by a combination of Black Walnut and Oak Woodlands.

### Book Review: Atlas of the Biodiversity of California

California Department of Fish and Game. 2003. *Atlas of the Biodiversity of California*. 103 pp. ISBN 0-9722291-0-8. \$20. Available at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Bookstore or direct from the CDFG (<http://atlas.dfg.ca.gov>).

Everyone interested in the natural history of California should have this book. This soft-cover Atlas is sized for your coffee table and is serious science distilled to be accessible. The book contains a series of maps of the

*continued on Page 6*

## ¿Obscure Botany Trivia Question?

### Spring 2004 Botanical Trivia Question

What are three basic physical differences between the two subgenera (*Cerastes* and *Euceanothus*) of the genus *Ceanothus*?

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 Winter 2003-04 Botanical Trivia Question I asked, "How many of the 8 California Channel Islands are within Ventura County and what is it's/are their name(s)?" Without realizing it, I had given the answers in another part of the newsletter. A fellow (I lost his name) correctly answered the question and is our botanical trivia question winner. The **two** islands within Ventura County are Anacapa and San Nicolas Islands.

## 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 and 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. A **color** version of the newsletter can be downloaded in PDF format.

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.

## President's Message

First, I want to thank Lynne Kada for serving the Channel Islands Chapter as its president for so many years. She did a fine job. She now is serving as Vice-President for Ventura County, as well as continuing at the state level as Chair of the Chapter Council.

Next, I want to thank Rita DePuydt for her assistance with maintaining the chapter membership list. She has now resigned, so we need someone to fill her shoes (okay, you can have new shoes if you are willing to take on this job).

We have a nice assortment of programs and events that I encourage you to participate in. They should be quite enjoyable, with something for everyone. Take the calendar of events page out and put it on your refrigerator so you don't miss anything.

We will be having our Annual Dinner event on Sunday, 19 September this year, which will be held on the grounds of the Ojai Winery on Old Creek Road. This will be an afternoon/early evening event, similar to what we have done the last few years. Mark your calendar now for this fun event. – *David Magney*



*Astragalus lentiginosus* ssp. *nigricalyxis*  
Quatal Canyon



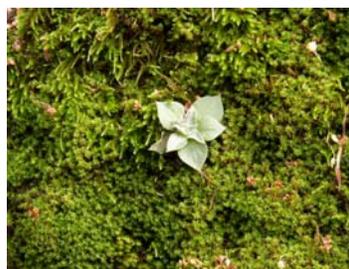
*Monoptilon lanceolata*  
Cuyama Badlands



*Rosa californica*  
Stewart Canyon, Nordhoff Ridge



*Clematis lasiantha*  
Stewart Canyon, Nordhoff Ridge



*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *pumila*  
Stewart Canyon, Nordhoff Ridge



*Adenostoma sparsifolium* bark  
Boney Peak, Santa Monica Mtns.

Photographs by ©David L. Magney 2004

See these photos in color by downloading this newsletter from the [www.cnpsci.org](http://www.cnpsci.org)

*Continued from Page 5* state's biodiversity, made using cutting-edge Geographic Information System (GIS) technology.

Biodiversity can be, in the broadest sense, thought of as the variety of life forms in a particular place. California has high biodiversity within the United States, partly because of its varied geography, geology, and climates. The Atlas maps these physical features, and then goes on to map the richness of vegetation types, plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, freshwater fishes, and special-status invertebrates. It then presents maps of habitats and species selected from these groups, some maps of human population density and invasive species, and some maps of efforts to sustain and enhance biodiversity.

Of particular interest to us are, of course, plant maps. The Vegetation Type Richness and Plant Species Richness maps show that our local area has a combination of a high number of plant alliances and a moderately high number of plant species compared to most other areas in the state. The Plant Rarity map shows that plant rarity is not so high, except for the Channel Islands. Additional maps showing the distributions of oak woodland, riparian areas, and the invasive exotic Yellow Star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) are also interesting.

The Atlas of the Biodiversity of California is not expensive, is not hard to understand, is informative, and is thought provoking if you really study it. Buy it!

## RARE PLANTS – DAVID MAGNEY

### FISH'S MILKWORT (*POLYGALA CORNUTA* VAR. *FISHIAE*)

| STATUS  |                   |   |
|---------|-------------------|---|
| Federal | State / NDDB      | CNPS (2001)   |
| None    | None / G5T4, S3.3 | List 4 (Plants of Limited Distribution); R-E-D Code 1-1-2 |



*Polygala cornuta* Kellogg var. *fishiae* (C. Parry) Jepson is a small, broad-leaved, winter-deciduous, 25dm-tall shrub, from rhizomes, that often forms dense thickets up to 2 m wide. It has decumbent to erect (6-25 dm long) stems covered with leaves that are more than twice as long as they are wide. *P. cornuta* var. *fishiae* produces peaflower-shaped flowers (7-11.2 mm long), blooming May through August, that are pale with dark pink buds. Fish's Milkwort is a member of the Milkwort family (Polygalaceae).

Fish's Milkwort can be found on exposed slopes growing in chaparral, oak woodland, and riparian woodland habitats at elevations between 100 and 1,100 m (Hickman 1993). It ranges from Santa Barbara County, in the Outer South Coast Ranges, south through the Transverse Ranges, to the northern Peninsular Ranges in northern San Diego County.

*P. cornuta* var. *f.* has been observed infrequently on Sulphur Mountain, Red Mountain, Rincon Mountain, lower Sesep Creek, lower Piru Creek, Ojai Valley, Santa Monica Mountains, Matilija Canyon, and canyons of Nordhoff Ridge. It prefers shaded and north-facing slopes, inhabiting predominantly Coastal Sage Scrub and woodland plant communities. This species was observed as an understory to *Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia* and *Juglans californica* var. *californica*, and with dominant shrub species, such as *Artemisia californica*, *Baccharis pilularis*, *B. plummerae* ssp. *plummerae* (a CNPS List 4 plant), *Mimulus aurantiacus*, *Salvia leucophylla*, and *Toxicodendron diversilobum*.

## PAST HIKE REVIEWS

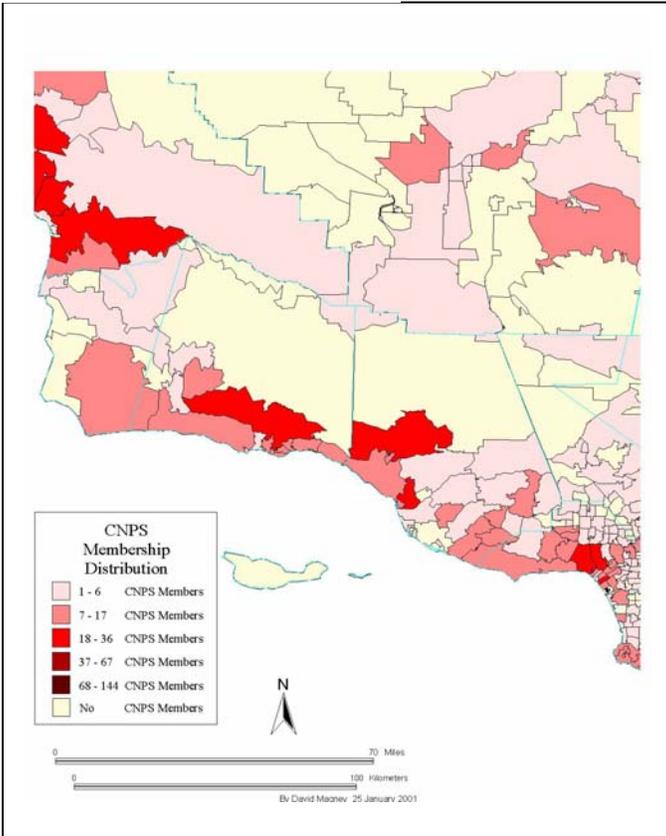
### Valentine's Day Hike with David Magney

A great group of CNPS members and nonmembers (17 in all) spent most the day leisurely hiking and botanizing on the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's 1,566-acre Ventura River/El Nido Preserve. Members attending included: Jay Sullivan, Dewey Val Scnorre, Patt McDaniel, Art and Judy Vander, and Kathy Richards. Non-CNPS members attending included: Jim and Myrna Cambianica, Bill and Linda Ramelli, Doug Becker, Tom and Sue Blaine, Trudy Ingram, Anna Jacobs-Auric, Rachel Pratt, and Kevin Allshouse. A total of 6.2 miles was walked in 5 hours and 21 minutes with about half the time hiking and the other half stopping and talking about plants and the environment. Our average hiking speed was 2.2 MPH, a pretty leisurely stroll since the average walking speed for humans is a little over 3 MPH.

As we crossed the Ventura River floodplain we discussed the fluvial processes that formed, and continue to shape, the river's floodplain, including the mosaic of natural vegetation found there. Some areas of the floodplain have fairly well developed soils such that grassland vegetation dominates where flooding rarely occurs. We found a few early flowering California Goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) and California Plantain (*Plantago erecta*) along the trail. Scalebroom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*) and Mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) were the dominant plants in the active channels. Chaparral and Coastal Sage Scrub species were also present in the floodplain. After crossing the river, which was dry, we entered into the cool and shady Wills Canyon. Along the way we found Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*) and Chaparral Currant (*Ribes malvaceum*) in bloom. Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is the dominant tree in the canyon, with a carpet of Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*) and Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). California Milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*) were found in one cool shady place. Ferns were growing on cool, shaded north-facing slopes, including: California Polypody (*Polypodium californicum*), Coastal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum jordanii*), and Goldenback Fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*). Later in Rice Canyon, we also saw Coffee Fern (*Pellaea andromedifolia*). In an open glade, we found California Buttercup (*Ranunculus californica*) shining in the sunlight with its lacquer-covered petals.



*Paeonia californica* (California Peony) on left and *Ribes speciosum* (Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry) on right. Photographs by ©David L. Magney 2004



## TIME VALUE MATERIAL

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(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. If you are a member of another chapter, you may subscribe to Matilija Copy for one year with a \$5-donation to the chapter by mailing a check to the chapter to subscribe. CNPS/Channel Islands Chapter members automatically receive this newsletter.