



# Matilija Copy

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Editor: David L. Magney

July-November 2004

## Contents

**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

### *“The Demise of California’s Valley Oak Savannas and Prospects for Conservation and Restoration”*

**Dr. Frank Davis, Professor of [Bio]Geography, UCSB**  
**5:00 p.m., Saturday, September 18, Old Creek Ranch Winery, Oak View**

At our chapter Annual Dinner (RSVP required), Dr. Davis will give a fascinating talk about plant biogeography and conservation, based on his research over the last decade. He has found some very interesting, and alarming things about our native vegetation using the most current scientific methods and tools.

You will NOT want to miss this year’s dinner at the Old Creek Ranch Winery near Oak View (Ojai Valley). We will have an art show and live auction from 12 excellent artists featuring artworks of the natural environment, live music by Russ Baggerly, a great dinner catered by Janet Berg, a silent auction of a variety of must-have items, wine tasting courtesy of the Old Creek Winery, and an opportunity to meet and talk to others who also care about California flora. This event costs \$25/adult and \$15/child over 8 years, and RSVP is required. If you did not receive an invitation, call Cher Batchelor at 805/646-6045 or 641-0863 no later than 15 September.

### *“Site-Specific Revegetation Program for Ventura County”*

**Christopher Bysshe, CNPS Channel Islands Horticulture Chair**  
**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 20, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

Bysshe will speak on the development of the Channel Island Chapter’s site-specific native revegetation facility program. We have collected seed over the last two years and now propagation efforts have begun! Chris will describe the program’s purpose, evolution over the last two years, and the current project matrix, and he will outline our ambitious plans for the future. Exciting developments regarding a new Ventura nursery facility and funding resources will be announced as well. This is a community-based effort and thus we welcome your participation.

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

### *“Braunton’s Milkvetch, A California Original”*

**Betsey Landis, CNPS-Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter**  
**7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 17, Topping Rm, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura**

What began as a reader's agitated response to an article I wrote for my Chapter newsletter triggered a lawsuit against Ventura County and a six-year hunt for clues to the history and lifestyle of a very beautiful, very Californian plant. The entire world population of Braunton's Milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) occurs in four relatively small areas in the Simi Hills, the Santa Monica Mountains, above Monrovia in the San Gabriel Mountains and in the northern Santa Ana Mountains. Come and find out why!

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## Conservation Front

### County Open Space Alliance

This November, Ventura County voters will be voting whether to increase the County sales tax by ¼ cent (from 7.25 percent to 7.5 percent) to provide operating funds for the Ventura County Open Space District (VCOSD), and to authorize formation of this district. The VCOSD would be established to purchase and manage open space lands for the purposes of preserving and restoring natural native habitats, something no County agency or entity is currently charged with doing countywide. This vote is absolutely vital to facilitate this type of conservation, and CNPS urges you all to vote **“Yes” on Measure A.**

Measure A is a countywide initiative to create an Open Space District that will preserve, enhance and restore the agricultural resources and natural qualities of Ventura County for the enjoyment and benefit of present and future County residents.

The County Open Space Alliance (COSA) is a broad-based countywide effort to assure the passage of Measure A on November 2, 2004. COSA believes Open Space Makes Cents, 1/4 cent that is. That's all it takes to make a difference in maintaining our farmland, views and open space that define the quality of life in Ventura County.

Measure A on the November, 2004 ballot establishes an Open Space District that will purchase parkland, open space and agricultural conservation easements to permanently preserve farmland between our cities. The small 1/4¢ sales tax for a limit of 10 years will be added to State and Federal grants to assure the character of Ventura County remains unchanged.

The Open Space District will purchase land and conservation easements throughout Ventura County to permanently protect areas such as wetlands, rivers, streams and coastal areas; hillsides, ridgelines and scenic viewsheds; wildlife corridors and natural habitat; agricultural lands; greenbelts between the cities; and natural park sites.

How will the Open Space District work?

- The Open Space District will function primarily as a granting agency. Usually it will not own or manage land, but will select projects and distribute funding for acquisitions to appropriate agencies and organizations, such as local park districts or land trusts.
- Funds will be used only to purchase land or development rights from willing sellers, the district cannot exercise eminent domain. The most successful projects will be locally driven with strong community support.
- Potential acquisitions will be evaluated and prioritized based on an extensive set of selection criteria that were developed by a broad-based citizen advisory committee. Selection criteria include such elements as: threat of development; strategic value in protecting water quality or scenic vistas; quality of natural habitat; soil quality and water supply (for agricultural lands); and availability of matching state, federal or private funds.

Your help is needed besides voting. Please make a donation to the County Open Space Alliance to assist with the campaign. A pre-addressed envelope is included with this newsletter to make it easy for you to send in a contribution. Thanks!

### Camarillo Regional Park

In May 2004 Ventura County Parks Department requested bids from golf course developers to build an 18-hole golf course at Camarillo Regional Park. One bid was submitted from a golf course developer. The Parks Department has also received a preliminary bid from the California Coastal Conservancy to enhance or expand wetland habitats at the park, which the Ventura County Board of Supervisors (championed by Linda Parks) specifically requested as an alternative. At some time in the near future, the Parks Department will make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors which project should be selected.

A group dedicated to preserve Camarillo Regional Park has been established, and has developed a website: The Camarillo Regional Park Preservation Committee has been formed to preserve Camarillo Regional Park as natural open space. Visit their site at [www.savecrp.com](http://www.savecrp.com), and read some very interesting things related to the park and golf course developments in Ventura County.

Unrelated but directly affecting wetlands at Camarillo Regional Park, the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (VCWPD, formerly the Flood Control District) whacked down all the riparian shrubs and trees within Calleguas Creek adjacent to Camarillo Regional Park. This is a routine practice (about once every 5 years) by the VCWPD to keep waterways clear of trees and large shrubs to accommodate the rare flood event. Since the VCWPD has confined channels such as Calleguas Creek into narrow pathways bound by unnatural levees, the normal fluvial processes, including flood water conveyance, of our streams have been reduced to narrow channels that flood control engineers want clean of natural vegetation, particularly trees. A preferred fluvial flood conveyance system would be one with wide enough floodplains to accommodate the rare flood events AND provide valuable riparian and wetland habitats in Ventura County.

CNPS urges all Ventura County residents to contact your Ventura County supervisor (Steve Bennett, Linda Parks, John Flynn, Judy Mikels, and Kathy Long) to let them know your views on what should happen at Camarillo Regional Park, and we hope you do not want another golf course. For background information about CNPS and Camarillo Regional Park, visit the chapter website at:

<http://www.cnpsci.org/html/Conservation/CurrentIssues.htm>.

### Roads and Biodiversity – Liz Chattin

Roads are known to fragment valuable habitat and be an obstacle for just about every form of wildlife that crosses them. In the past few years, Caltrans and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area have inventoried wildlife use of road crossing structures including bridges and culverts in Ventura County. It was not too surprising that they found a number of large and medium sized mammals, including mountain lions, use these structures to pass underneath roads. However, these animals are just as likely to attempt to go across the road, even when a structure is present. To better understand how roads impact species near wetlands and to mitigate the impacts of land use entitlement projects on wildlife migration, the Ventura County Planning Division is working with the UCSB Bren School to carry out a study to develop mitigation measures to reduce impacts of roads on wildlife movement in *continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2* land use entitlement project areas. The UCSB Bren students are conducting field research to examine roadkill and crossing structure use by wildlife with a focus on reptiles and amphibians. The students would greatly appreciate any assistance from the community with collecting roadkill data and helping to inventory the crossing structures. If you are interested in participating contact Liz Chatten by phone at 805/648-9287 or via email at [elizabeth.chatten@mail.co.ventura.ca.us](mailto:elizabeth.chatten@mail.co.ventura.ca.us).

### November Elections

CNPS urges you to vote this November as the outcome is vitally important to the preservation of the California native flora, at the local, state, and national levels. We encourage you to carefully review every candidate for office, no matter what level, for their records and stands on issues that affect the environment both locally and globally. Every vote does indeed count (okay, maybe not in Florida) and your vote is needed. We encourage you to vote with future generations in mind, not your pocketbook (although we are confident that no CNPS member would be so greedy and selfish). Look at the big picture and the long run, not just issues we are facing today. Be an informed voter, and vote!

## Horticulture

### Native Plant Propagation Program

Come to the Chapter evening program on October 20<sup>th</sup> to hear Christopher Bysshe talk about the exciting program he is spearheading for the chapter. We are working on establishing a truly locally native plant nursery for all who desire truly locally native plants to the region. There will be many fun propagation tasks that you may want to help with.

### Native Plant Sales

Be sure to check the calendar section of this newsletter for information on fall native plant sales. The Channel Islands Chapter is hosting its native plant sale on 20 November while the San Luis Obispo Chapter is hosting one in Nipomo (San Luis Obispo County) on 2 October.

## Education

### Botswap

About every six months, a group of local botanists get together to just talk about the botany profession and issues of interest or concern. A group of local botanists, primarily botanists working for public agencies, met at the UCSB Coal Oil Point Preserve in Goleta in late August. We heard a presentation from Dr. Jon Keeley about wildfire history, statistics, and characteristics, and how they affect natural vegetation.

This forum for meeting is a very good educational opportunity for professional botanists. CNPS encourages all professional botanists to attend whenever possible. Contact Connie Rutherford at the US Fish & Wildlife Service at 644-1766 to get a notice.

## Vegetation

### Wildfires & Natural Vegetation – David Magney

You all remember the wildfires of October 2003 and other years. They can be very scary for homeowners who live next to natural vegetation that is prone to burn easily. It is interesting though, how people's perceptions can be influenced by ignorance or misinformation, such as when the news anchor labels a burned area of chaparral a "disaster", showing scenes of scorched hillsides. The fact is, natural vegetation in southern California is able to cope very well to periodic, but infrequent fires. It is humans that do not cope so well, and we too often put our fears, as truly real as they are, onto natural ecosystems.



*This picture of one of the October 2003 fires in San Diego County was clipped from a photo in a presentation by Dr. Jon Keeley of the USGS.*

Colonists to southern California early recognized that water quality was dependent on a healthy watershed, which meant that the native vegetation growing on our mountains and hillsides was providing an invaluable function in maintaining water quality and water quantity for downstream areas. When the natural vegetation is removed, for any reason, there is a significant increase in surface runoff, mudslides, sedimentation of streams, and reduced water percolation into the local aquifers. This realization was the foundation of the Forest Preserve system (the precursor to the Forest Service) established by President Theodore Roosevelt in the late 1890s. In fact, the Pine Mountain and Zaca Lake Forest Reserve was the first reserve established anywhere in the United States, specifically to protect the watersheds supporting Ojai (then called Nordhoff), San Buenaventura, Santa Barbara, and other communities. The boundaries and names changed over the years, and finally evolved into the Los Padres National Forest (in 1936 or 1938). Other Preserves were established in Los Angeles County, and elsewhere.

Firefighting was a major focus of these federal reserves, and subsequent incarnations. The mantra has almost always been to suppress any and all wildfires. Frankly, based on extensive research by a number of very talented ecologists and fire specialists, such as Dr. Jon Keeley, now with the U.S. Geologic Survey, we have a much better understanding of the history and ecological effects of natural wildfires and vegetation response, and how fire suppression has worked and not worked.

Jon Keeley and C.J. Fotheringham presented some very interesting data in 2004 on the effects of fire fighting efforts over the last 100 years in southern California, focusing on shrubland wildfires, the type of wildfire we face in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Their findings are summarized below.

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1-5600 <http://www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/WMA.htm>.

**4-5 October, Tuesday-Wednesday, CNPS-CDFG Vegetation and Habitat Rapid Assessment Public Workshop.** Learn how to classify and describe natural vegetation of the Santa Monica Mountains (applicable to anywhere in California) at this thorough field workshop put on by CNPS. Registration is \$150/person before 17 September and \$175/person afterwards. Contact Ann Klein at 916/327-5960 or email her at [aklein@cnps.org](mailto:aklein@cnps.org). We hosted this workshop in the Ojai Valley a couple of years ago.

*continued from page 3* One of the problems revealed by their study is that fire fighters have been treating forests and shrublands the same in their efforts to manage and prevent wildfires; however, they are very different. A prescription for forests (vegetation dominated by trees) is not appropriate for shrublands such as Coastal Sage Scrub and Chaparral. They behave very differently when burning. The fire suppression policies have resulted in fire exclusion, when such goals jeopardize the health of the natural vegetation, which follows with threats and damage to human structures and lives.

Money spent suppressing and fighting wildfires has increased dramatically every decade over the past 100-plus years; however, the number of acres burned has remained relatively stable: lots of acres of natural vegetation burn every year. If the goal of fire fighters is to reduce the area burned, clearly spending more taxpayer dollars has failed to reduce the acreage that does burn.

Most wildfires now are started by arsonists or by accident by humans, ironically often when they are clearing vegetation around their homes, as required by the fire departments. Prior to the population explosion and people building their homes in shrubland habitats, most fires were started by lightning strikes, which is rare in southern California, except in the higher mountains.

One of the concepts strongly implemented by wildland fire fighters is the desire to create defensible space between combustible natural vegetation and human structures. These come in a variety of forms, including clear zones around all homes, fuel breaks along ridges, and a mosaic of different-aged vegetation. Ventura County Fire Department requires homeowners to clear natural vegetation 100 feet around their homes, and if they don't, the Fire Department will hire someone to do it for them and send the bill to the homeowner.



*This photo shows a firebreak (right center) and a brush clearance zone (left center, near the houses) in an area of chaparral that burned in October 2003 (courtesy Jon Keeley).*

The fires of October 2003 very clearly taught us that having fuelbreaks, multi-aged vegetation mosaics, and brush-clear zones around our homes does not necessarily prevent homes from catching fire; not when Santa Ana winds are fanning the flames and sending embers thousands of feet, including across 8-lane freeways. Basically, there is no such thing as defensible space, there is no such thing as a wide enough fuelbreak when the flames are fed by

these hot and strong winds. Those houses that did not burn were those that took care to reduce or eliminate combustible fuels immediately next to them. Those with shake roofs went up in flames.

The practice of prescribed or controlled burning of shrublands was an interesting idea; however, this practice does nothing to stem the spread of wildfires spread by the Santa Ana winds, and the data show that most of the devastating fires in southern California are indeed such fires. Keeley and Fotheringham point out that strategic placement is far more effective in reducing losses from wildfires than spending money on attempts to create barriers. Treating acreage of brush is not effective. Where structures are placed and how they are maintained are far more important factors. Creating fire breaks and fuel-clear zones damages the natural ecosystem both directly and indirectly, by reducing the amount of native vegetation and creating pathways and habitat for invasive exotic species, such as Yellow Star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). Yellow Star-thistle invasion not only adversely affects native habitats, it is a major agricultural pest, costing farmers and the governments millions of dollars to control, all needless and adverse effects of our current fire fighting strategies.

Keeley and Fotheringham, and CNPS, argue that a better way to manage these wildfire events, in much the way the government plans for other natural disasters such as earthquakes, is by engineering human infrastructure to minimize impacts and risks to humans and their structures. This in part is the responsibility of planning departments, who must work in conjunction with resource agencies, conservation organizations, fire departments, and landowners to really work towards viable solutions, not just standing by and watching our tax dollars go up in smoke.

For more information on this subject, and to download a copy of Keeley and Fotheringham's presentation, visit [www.sdfirerecovery.net](http://www.sdfirerecovery.net) on the internet and migrate to the Shrublands Management page.

## Rare Plants – David Magney

### Ventura County Planning Division

The Ventura County Planning Division is working on improving its procedures and methods to evaluate project-related impacts upon biological resources, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Studies (IS). This work is being done under grant monies from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The County has some good conservation policies under its general plan, but some of the supporting documents or research have never been completed. One of these tasks is the development of a list of locally important/sensitive species (plants and animals). Under the EPA grant, the Planning Division has convened workshops for local knowledgeable biology experts, including wildlife biologists and botanists to develop the lists.

After several meetings and workshops by these experts, all the botanists and wildlife biologists agreed on definitions and criteria to be used to define locally rare/sensitive species. The criteria will be the same as that used by the California Natural Diversity Database, which uses a national and global ranking system.

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## ¿Obscure Botany Trivia Question?

### Summer-Fall 2004 Botanical Trivia Question

What does the term “pycnocephalus” mean? Hint: This is a Latin term.

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 Spring 2004 Botanical Trivia Question, I asked, “What are three basic physical differences between the two subgenera (*Cerastes* and *Euceanothus*) of the genus *Ceanothus*?” Three members correctly answered this question by early May, **Cher Batchelor**, **Barbara Farnsworth**, and **Ralph Begley**. **Cher** was the contest winner as she was the first to reply with the correct answers. I was looking for stipule differences, flower color, and habitat preference, but accepted all correct differences. The two *Ceanothus* subgenera have different stipules, leaf thickness (thick vs. thin) and venation (single vein vs. 3 veins), leaf arrangements on stems (opposite vs. alternate), stomata position (sunken vs. at surface), flower color (whitish vs. bluish), north-facing vs. south-facing slope preferences.

## 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

It has been a busy summer, and much planning has gone into our upcoming chapter Annual Dinner meeting. You will not want to miss this event. Call Cher Batchelor to see if there is still room.

Don’t forget that we have CNPS posters available for sale. New posters have been recently developed by CNPS that you likely don’t have in your collection, one featuring California native grasses, the other California oaks. Come by the fall plant sale or one of our events and purchase one or more. They are a great value at \$7 each, and \$9 for laminated posters. This is the time to stock up on some of the classic wildflower posters for holiday gift-giving. To purchase these on your own, please contact Scott Brown at (805) 525-9905 or email him at [sbrown5534@aol.com](mailto:sbrown5534@aol.com). We are planning a number of events for the fall and winter that you should find interesting and fun to attend. Mark your calendar now for all those you won’t want to miss. – David Magney



*Claytonia exigua*  
Cherry Creek Canyon

*Eriophyllum pringlei*  
Cuyama Badlands



Glacial lake and wetlands  
Kinnahult, Västergötland, Sweden

Swedish botanists in bog  
wetland Upland, Sweden



*Apocynum cannabinum*  
Upper Piru Creek downstream of  
Halfmoon Camp

*Adenostoma sparsifolium*  
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)

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Basically, if a plant has five or fewer populations in Ventura County, it will be considered a locally rare species and require full consideration to impacts to them during the CEQA review process. Other criteria were adopted that could be used to include taxa as locally rare, but the number of populations will be the primary criterion used, as it is the easiest to document and measure. The list of locally rare plants can be found on the Channel Islands Chapter’s website, [www.cnpsci.org](http://www.cnpsci.org), which also includes plants that are locally uncommon (6-10 populations in the County). Currently there are 742 plant taxa in Ventura County that have only 5 or fewer populations there, and of these, well over 500 taxa have only one known population within the county, excluding those that occur only within the Los Padres National Forest on Forest Service lands. Well over 100 of these 500 rare taxa are likely extirpated (no longer exist) within Ventura County, due primarily to land development for agriculture or houses and businesses.

## FEATURED RARE PLANT – DAVID MAGNEY

### Catalina Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus catalinae*) STATUS

Federal	State / NDDB	CNPS (Tibor 2003)
None	None / G3, S3.2	List 4 (Plants of Limited Distribution); R-E-D Code 1-2-3

*Calochortus catalinae* S. Watson is a bulbiferous perennial herb with 20 to 60 cm stems (bulblet-bearing) and withering basal leaves from 10 to 30 cm. The inflorescence consists of 1 to 4 erect, bowl-shaped flowers with purple-spotted (near base) sepals (20 to 30 mm) and white, tinged lilac, purple-spotted, nearly glabrous flowers. The flowers include oblong, densely-branched hairy nectaries (not depressed) and erect, non-angled fruit (2 to 5 cm). *C. catalinae* blooms between February and May (Tibor-CNPS 2003) and is part of the lily family (Liliaceae). (Hickman 1993.) Catalina Mariposa Lily is an uncommon herb of heavy soil in open grassland, coastal scrub, and chaparral habitats and is known below 700 meters in elevation (Hickman 1993). It occurs primarily in the southern portion of the Central Coast and the western South Coast, and is known in Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties (including Santa Catalina Island and Santa Rosa Island) (Skinner and Pavlik 1994). *C. catalinae* is threatened by development. There are approximately 34 reported occurrences of *C. catalinae* in Ventura County, of which about 10 have been extirpated. It occurs on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands, and in the Santa Ynez Valley and Mountains to Figueroa Mountain in Santa Barbara County (Smith 1998 – *A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region*, second edition).

## PAST HIKE AND CHAPTER EVENT REVIEWS

### Ahmanson Ranch-San Fernando Valley Spineflower with Mary Meyer, 24 April 2004

A small group of chapter members (David Magney, Nancy Breslin, Patt McDaniel, and Richard Sweet) and a UCLA student, Julie, followed Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game Botanist Mary Meyer around Laskey Mesa on the former Ahmanson Ranch to find and examine the endangered San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*). While the plants were much smaller in stature than they were in 2003, we saw thousands of the plant, in bloom. Mary explained a lot about known habitat requirements of the plant, population size and dynamics, and about known pollinators. She also described what Washington Mutual and their consultants had proposed for the Ahmanson Ranch development, and the inadequate Spineflower preserves they were suggesting. Thanks to a large number of people fighting the Ahmanson Ranch development, and the good sense of Washington Mutual Bank in the end, this invaluable resource has been protected from development. Be sure to take a hike to this park in the near future.



Left: from left to right, Richard, Julie, Patt, Nancy, and Mary, looking at the Spineflower. Center photos: San Fernando Valley Spineflower with a pen and rabbit droppings for scale. Right: Patt, Nancy, and Mary on their knees examining pollinators of the San Fernando Valley Spineflower plants.

### Earth Day at Oak Grove School with Ken Niessen

Ken took Sunday afternoon out of his busy schedule to staff a CNPS booth at the Earth Day event at Oak Grove School in Ojai on Sunday, 25 April 2004. It was a warm day, with a number of folks visiting the CNPS table, several of whom bought books and T-shirts. Chapter President David Magney helped man the table at the end of the afternoon.



### Thorn Meadows with Ken and Cher

You missed a beautiful day (14 June 2004) at Thorn Meadows and Cedar Creek in northern Ventura County. Ken Niessen and Cher Batchelor led this nice botany foray into the Ventura County highcountry. Ken and his wife and daughter and Cher camped out at Thorn Meadows [Snedden] Camp Friday evening and were met by member Richard Sweet for a day of botanizing along Cedar Creek, a tributary of the upper reaches of Piru Creek. They hiked a couple miles up the creek (on a good trail) to Cedar Camp, ahead of a Boy Scout troop, and saw many interesting plants, including a small population of what looks very much like Mountain Alder (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), representing only the second population of this northern species known to occur in Ventura County, the first population (two shrubs) being discovered by David Magney the week before just over the ridge in Horse Thief Canyon (the upper end of Mutau Creek, also a tributary to Piru Creek). Probably the largest population of Western Bracken Fern in Ventura County occurs just west of Thorn Meadows.



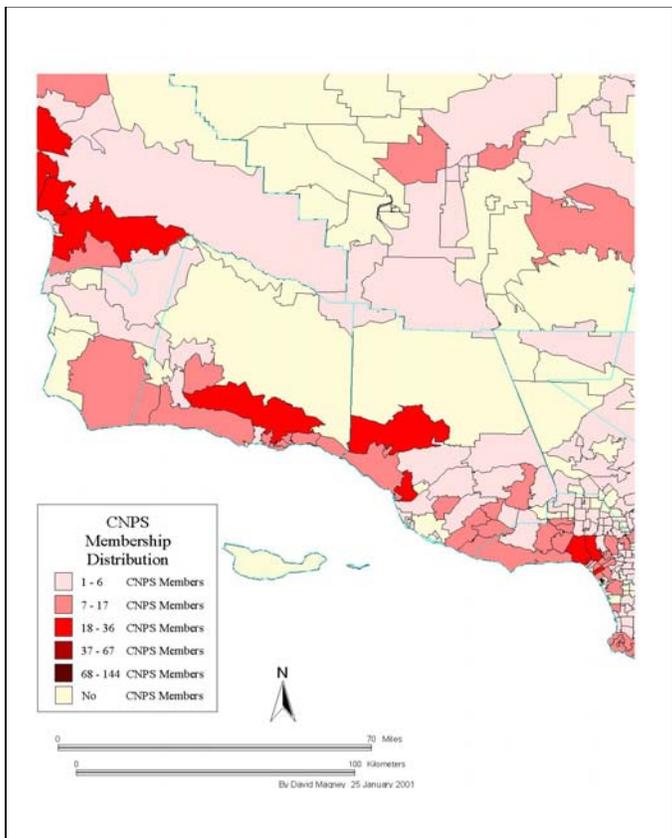
California Native Plant Society  
 P.O. Box 6  
 Ojai, CA 93024

www.cnpsci.org



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## TIME VALUE MATERIAL



### Channel Islands Chapter Officers/Program Contacts

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Plant Sales:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
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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.