



Matilija Copy

Volume 20, Issue 1

Spring 2007

Editor: William B. Abbott

Calendar of Events

“Ormond Beach Habitat Restoration, and Other Coastal Conservancy Projects”

Location: E. P. Foster Library, Ventura

Date and Time: **Wednesday, February 21st, 7:30PM**

Speaker: **Peter Brand, Calif. State Coastal Conservancy**

Mr. Brand is a project manager for the Conservancy. He works to secure and plan habitat restoration for wetlands and coastal habitats of Ormond Beach, among other Ventura County areas. Mr. Brand will provide an update of the Conservancy's activities, accomplishments, and future plans for all of Ventura County. Please join us!

Mini Plant ID Session before – meet at 7PM

March, April and May Speakers

Location: E. P. Foster Library, Ventura, and the Botanic Garden, Santa Barbara

Date and Time: **Third Wednesdays, 7:30PM**

We're currently confirming speakers for the rest of the Spring; check www.cnpsci.org for information closer to the dates.

Spring Native Plant Sale!!!!

Location: Plaza Park, Ventura

Date and Time: **Saturday, March 31st, 9AM to 2PM**

Plaza Park is in downtown Ventura, opposite the Post Office, on Santa Clara Avenue, two blocks east of California Street. Gorgeous native plants, made available from Matilija Nursery in Moorpark (thank you, Bob!), will be available for sale. Also available will be free planting advice, books, posters, T-shirts, and various other related items. Contact Lynne Kada at 643-4842 or kada@yahoo.com to help, for special orders, or for more info.

Save the Date!

Channel Islands Chapter Annual Dinner 2007

Location: **Old Creek Ranch Winery**

Date and Time: **Saturday, August 25th, 4:30PM to 9PM**

The Annual Dinner is a relaxing evening of wine tasting, socializing, fundraising, dining, entertainment, and talks on native plant projects. Please note your interest in this event on the election ballot included in this newsletter. Call Cher Batchelor, CNPSCI Secretary, at 646-6045 with constructive criticism or ideas on how to make it even better.

Chapter Board Meetings, Ojai

Tentatively every first Tuesday of each month, 6:30PM.

Chapter board meetings held monthly, at a private residence in Ojai. Come to a meeting - there are always plenty of volunteer opportunities. Call (805) 646-6045 for specific dates, directions, and more information.

President's Message

It has been quite a while since we have had a newsletter. Thanks to William Abbott, our new newsletter editor, this issue is proof that we are back on track with issuing the *Matilija Copy*. Thank you for your patience. As is the case for any volunteer-based organization, we depend on those members who give freely of their time to do the work of the organization. I want to thank all of you who have participated in chapter activities, and given freely as you have been able. Of course, the Channel Islands Chapter still needs more help. The current chapter board is overloaded with all the things that we need and want to do to conserve our native flora, and to educate members and the general public about native plants.

As some of you may be aware, the Newhall Ranch is continuing to move forward with their plans to eliminate 1,000s of acres of natural habitat as part of their plans to turn their vast holdings into a new city along the Santa Clara River just east of the Ventura County line. The most recent assault on the environment comes in the form of the Landmark Village development, along State Route 126 and the river, with plans to build 1,444 housing units, about 1,033,000 square feet of mixed-use/commercial uses, and related facilities. This will be built on 292.6 acres, mostly between SR126 and the river, with another 750.9 acres of natural habitat destroyed to find dirt to fill the river floodplain, widen SR126, and build connecting roads to make way for much more development in the near future.

CNPS is joining forces with the Friends of the Santa Clara River to provide detailed comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Landmark Village project. To be truly effective, the Friends are hiring experts to prepare detailed comments to be put in the record, an absolutely necessary step in the environmental review process. As part of my review of the DEIR documents, I identified at least 55 plants that are rare in Los Angeles County, many of which are also rare in Ventura County, that will likely be impacted by the project, and the developer is planning no mitigation or avoidance of them at all! The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains and Channel Islands Chapters both are contributing dollars to ensure adequate review; however, available chapter funds are quite limited. Any financial assistance you can provide would be GREATLY appreciated and will be put to good use. It is entirely likely that, based on past experience with Los Angeles County and the Newhall Ranch, the environmental community will need to file a lawsuit against them just to get them to follow the California Environmental Quality Act

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President's Message *continued from page 1...*

(CEQA). Since no state or local agency is charged with enforcing CEQA (that is specifically left to the public), groups like CNPS must do so through the public review process and then the courts. If you can, please send as much as you can afford to CNPS at P.O. Box 6, Ojai, CA 93024. It will be put to good use. Copies of the DEIR and supporting documents can be obtained from Los Angeles County Regional Planning's website (<http://planning.lacounty.gov/spLandmark.htm>). Happy reading! The deadline for submitting written comments has been extended to 20 February 2007 with a second public hearing on 28 February 2006. CNPS comments will be posted on the chapter website. Know for sure, everyone living in the region WILL be impacted by the Newhall Ranch project, directly or indirectly, not to mention the tremendous impacts to the natural environment.

It is time to vote for your chapter officers. Please fill out your ballot included in this newsletter and mail it in. Your vote is important. If you wish to help out the chapter in any way, contact any chapter officer.

Remember to visit the chapter website regularly, as I have been updating various parts here and there. Most recently, I have posted the most recent version (late January) of the checklist of locally rare plants of Ventura County. The latest version has had substantial additions, deletions, and changes in rarity status based on ongoing research at California public herbaria. It is posted, along with older versions for comparison, on the "Rare Plants" webpage. Cheers,

David L. Magney



Mimulus flemingii X *M. aurantiacus*? Island Monkeyflower hybrid near Pelican Bay, Santa Cruz Island. Photo: W. Abbott

Announcement: CNPS Channel Islands Teams up with Ormond Pointe Nursery Team!

CNPSCI will be joining forces with a group of Oxnard community volunteers headed by Trisha Munro (CNPSCI member) and Nancy Pederson to restore a city-owned vacant lot to the seaside wetland it once was. A lot of work has already been completed by the energetic group, but there's much more to do! Call Trisha (983-1312) to volunteer. Information on this exciting endeavor will be available at our website soon.

Cher's Favorite Plant!

Cher Batchelor, local ecologist and botanist, knows our native plants inside and out. Here's this newsletter's pick:

My favorite plant of the season is *Viola pedunculata* ssp. *pedunculata* (Johnny-Jump-Up), which is a perennial herb in the Violet Family (Violaceae). This puberulent plant comes from a deep rhizome with cauline, triangular-shaped leaves and orange-yellow petals bearing reddish-brown markings. Johnny-Jump-Ups can be discovered in open, undisturbed, grassy hillsides growing amongst Wildflower Field or Oak Woodland habitats. I grow violets at home, but nothing compares to the delicate nature of these little beauties, and the pristine habitat they usually occur in.



Viola pedunculata ssp. *pedunculata* (Johnny-Jump-Up)

CNPS PLANT HIKE CORNER

Leaders: Cher Batchelor, David Magney, William Abbott, and Ken Niessen, Botanists/Plant Ecologists.

Join one or all of these local botanists for easy-going weekend adventures. These California Native Plant Society/Los Padres Forest Association hikes into the local backcountry, will forage as far as the Cuyama Valley and as near as the Santa Barbara Foothills. Bring along your favorite plant identification book, and we will key out together even those peskiest of specimens (don't worry, your bulky Jepson can be left in the car). Always wear boots, and bring water and a lunch. If the weather looks rainy the hike may be cancelled; please contact the local CNPS office at (805) 646-6045 or william@magney.org if you need more information.

Dates:

Saturday, 17 February 2007, 8AM to 2PM. Romero Canyon Trail. Intermediate. Meet at the Romero Trailhead off of Bella Vista Dr. north of East Valley Road/ SR 192 in Montecito. We will hike a loop and not summit to Camino Cielo unless the group is interested.

Saturday, 10 March 2007, 9AM to 1PM. Cozy Dell Trail with guest hike leader David Torfeh, bird enthusiast. Easy/intermediate. Meet at the Cozy Dell Trailhead on Hwy 33. Thanks, David!

Saturday, 14 April 2006, 8:30AM to 4PM. Catalogue fire followers with David Magney in the eastern end of the areas recently scorched by the Day Fire. Strenuous and long. Meet at the gas station at the intersection of Hallock Dr and Hwy 126 at the eastern end of Santa Paula at 8:30AM.

Saturday, 21 April 2006, 8AM to ?? We've marked the date on the calendar, but don't have an itinerary yet – check the website at www.cnpsci.org closer to the date for more information.



Artrostaphylos glauca (Bigberry Manzanita) in bud near Pelican Harbor on Santa Cruz Island (photo: W. Abbott)

Announcement:

The Formation of the Ventura County Weed Management Area (VCWMA)

The Ventura County Weed Management Area (VCWMA) is the newest of 46 Weed Management Areas (WMA's) in California. WMA's are established under the authority of the California Food and Agriculture Code for the purpose of combating weed problems. VCWMA functions through mutually developed Memoranda of Understanding (MOU's) with Federal, State, and County public agencies, special districts, municipalities, environmental coalitions, agricultural concerns, and others who have an interest in fighting the spread of invasive and noxious weeds in Ventura County. CNPS is represented by Channel Islands Chapter member Steve Hoskinson, and the MOU with CNPS is pending approval by the State CNPS office in Sacramento.

The VCWMA is an expansion of the Ventura County Arundo Task Force (VCATF), and both agencies are led by the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (VCRCDD). Other local organizations such as the Ventura County Watershed Protection District and the Wetlands Recovery Task Force are also participants. VCWMA strives to initiate, coordinate, and promote activities necessary to prevent the introduction of new invasive and noxious weeds, halt the spread of these species, reduce the areas under infestation, promote Integrated Weed Management techniques, eradicate certain species where possible, and educate local agencies, municipalities and the general public within Ventura County about the problems associated with invasive and noxious weeds. Goals of the VCWMA include:

1. Protect and enhance the native biodiversity of flora and fauna and maintain & restore habitats of Ventura County.
2. Reduce the fire hazard, erosion damage, and flood danger caused by invasive and noxious weeds within the county.
3. Increase the value and usefulness of cropland, pastureland, stream corridors, natural open spaces or wildlands and parks.

Please visit the VCWMA website at www.vcwma.org for more information, including a list of local priority weeds and links to other organizations and resources.

(Adapted from the VCWMA website by Steve Hoskinson)

Ken Niessen, CNPS Channel Islands Invasive Exotics Authority, is set to publish a Ventura County-specific comprehensive list of invasive threats (+200 spp.) – check www.cnpsci.org soon for a free download!

INVASIVE UPDATE

Non-native invasive plants pose threats to the stability of the native flora of California. We need to do all we can to stop the spread of exotic invasives. Go ahead and pull a weed on a hike – or in a parking lot!

It's also very important to maintain our own gardens free of horticultural pests (the leafy kind, that is). To this end, the California Horticultural Invasive Prevention Partnership (CalHIP) was formed in 2004. The partnership is facilitated by the nonprofit Sustainable Conservation (www.suscon.org) and includes broad representation from the nursery and landscaping industries. The partnership has published a list of ornamental plants that have become invasive in California and that are still available at nurseries, and is currently establishing criteria for voluntary action at the trade level to help California's gardens get invasive-free. Check out the "Don't Plant a Pest" page on the California Invasive Plant Council's website at www.cal-ipc.org for a comprehensive list of such pests.

This newsletter's **PEST PICK** is *Nassella tenuissima* (Mexican Feathergrass). Also called *Stipa tenuissima*, this grass is a gorgeous, drought-tolerant ornamental commonly sold in nurseries. The non-native is known to spread locally from gardens. It has not established yet in wildland areas, but look out! Pull it if you DO find it in the wild.



(Picture made available from JoyCreek.com)

Save the Date!
CNPS Conservation Symposium

Location: Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove
Dates. **October 19-22, 2008**

More to come in subsequent newsletters...

PROGRAMS OF OTHERS

Botanizing Excursions to the Channel Islands !

with Steve Junak and Sally Isaacson of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Join local island-flora expert and herbarium curator Steve Junak and the Botanic Garden's Director of Education Sally Isaacson for excursions to some popular and some seldom visited Channel Islands. These spring visits are timed for optimal wildflower viewing (if it rains in time, that is!). Field trip starting times vary, but all meet at Island Packers in Ventura. See www.sbbg.org and click on the "classes" tab for more information, or call 682-4726 to interact with a real person.

- Thursday, March 29, 2007: Anacapa Island.
- Saturday, April 14, 2007: Santa Barbara Island
- Monday, May 7 through Thursday, May 10: Santa Cruz Island (overnight)
- Monday, May 14 through Wednesday, May 16: San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands (overnight; departs Santa Barbara)

The website also describes many field classes available on our side of the channel.

Cheadle Grassland Restoration Seminar

Ongoing; Monday evenings until March 12

Lisa Stratton and the staff of the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) at UCSB are heading up a great grassland seminar this spring. Topics include the role of rodents, community succession, and limiting nutrients in grassland communities and restoration efforts. The seminar is not held every Monday; call Lisa at CCBER at 893-4158 for schedule and information.

Annual Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival

Saturday, March 11

Join nature-lovers for an all-day festival celebrating the whale! And CNPSCI will have a booth as well – stop by!

Carpinteria Bluffs Sunrise Service

Saturday, March 18, 5:45AM

Join Citizens for the Carpinteria Bluffs and local Chumash descendant Julie Tumamait-Stenslie for the 8th annual springtime sunrise ceremony at the Mishopshno Meadow of the Carpinteria Bluffs, off of the 101 Bailard exit. Participants will share readings or thoughts, if they wish, during the spiritual observance. While at the Bluffs, be sure to check out the ongoing plant restoration work near the main parking area spearheaded by CNPS member Andrea Adams-Morden. See www.carpinteriabluffs.org for more information.

Stephen Hopper gives 2007 Vernon I. Cheadle Lecture

Tuesday, March 20, 7PM

Stephen Hopper, a world leader in plant science and the Director of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, will be giving the 2007 Vernon I. Cheadle lecture of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The lecture will take place at the Faulkner Gallery, immediately adjacent to the Santa Barbara Public Library. The lecture is free, but reservations are recommended. Call the Garden Registrar for more information at 682-4726.

Guadalupe Dunes Flora and Chumash Ethnobotany

Saturday, March 24, 9:30AM: Coreopsis Hill Botanizing

Join botanists Lauren Brown and Janny Langford and see some of the unique wildflowers that grow in the shifting sand ecosystem of the Guadalupe Dunes. Meet in the parking lot of Oso Flaco Lake and bring water, a lunch, a jacket and sunscreen. RSVP to Carrie of the Dune Center at 343-2455 ext. 205. See www.dunecenter.org for more information.

Saturday, March 31 10AM-12PM: Ethnobotany of the Dunes

Join naturalist Karen Osland to learn about the many uses of our native plants, as utilized by the Chumash. Meet at the Oso Flaco Lake parking lot.

Purisima Hills and Burton Mesa

Friday, March 30, 8AM – 4PM

Join Steve Junak of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden on a botanical tour of the Burton Mesa. Explore endemic plants of maritime chaparral and Bishop Pine plant communities near Lompoc and the Jualachichi Summit. For more information, call the Garden Registrar at 682-4726 or log onto www.sbbg.org.

Earth Day

Sunday, April 22, 10AM – 5:30PM

Mark your calendars for the Community Environmental Council's Earth Day 2007 celebration at the Santa Barbara Courthouse. More information at www.SBEarthDay.org

CONFERENCE: Restoring and Managing California Native Grassland Landscapes

Thursday through Sunday, May 17th – 20th

Join the California Native Grassland Association (CNGA) for workshops, field courses and technical sessions during their annual conference, to be held at UCSB. Partnering with the Cheadle Center of UCSB and the Society for Range Management, this four-day conference will showcase materials for grass experts and novices alike. For additional information, contact admin@cnga.org, call Jan Bridges at (530)759-8458, or log onto www.cnpsci.org to download the registration form for the two-day grass ID workshop (Saturday and Sunday).

Jepson Workshops

Ongoing

Check out <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/> for plant ID workshops and field courses – *Chorizanthe* spp. is coming up!

Directions to the E.P. Foster Library: From North US 101, 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 US 101, take the California St. exit; go 2 blocks and turn right onto Main St. and turn left onto Chestnut. Parking is behind the library, and there is a rear entrance to the **Topping Room** on the west side of the library. 651 E. Main St.

Directions to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden: From US 101, take the Mission St offramp and head toward the mountains. At the final "T" stop of Mission St., take a left on Laguna St and proceed for 2 blocks to Los Olivos St. (immediately in front of the Mission). Take a right on Los Olivos, which becomes Mission Canyon Rd. Stay on Mission Canyon past its jog intersection with SR 192 (turn right, then left). The Garden is 2/3 mile north of SR192. 1212 Mission Canyon.

CNPS Channel Islands Chapter Task List

Please see if any of these tasks interest you and contact us with your ideas!

- ♣ Join the team of CNPS hike leaders!
- ♣ Delve into and expand Archives as a local Plant Historian
- ♣ Develop & expand native plant nursery (local native species)
- ♣ Spearhead education programs from elementary school gardens to college classes (taxonomy classes & hikes)
- ♣ Peddle posters, T-shirts and CNPS publications
- ♣ Staffing tables/booths at environmental events
- ♣ Keep a tab on our book resources as a librarian
- ♣ Run membership campaigns and coordinate existing membership
- ♣ Jumpstart or assist with a conservation program
- ♣ Run a Chumash native plant garden program
- ♣ Help with Ventura County rare plants publications and help complete and publish the Ventura County Flora
- ♣ Help organize major habitat restoration days (2 per year)

- ♣ Be a GIS nerd and identify vegetation mapping gaps
- ♣ Get involved in Honor Farm/organic farm-beneficial/companion plantings
- ♣ Bake cookies and muffins for the plant sales
- ♣ Help with website maintenance
- ♣ Coordinate volunteers
- ♣ Advertise for us!
- ♣ Develop Santa Barbara County membership leadership and coordinate Chapter activities with Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
- ♣ Go get some GRANTS! (Restoration Programs)
- ♣ Become a TV star by fronting a CNPS show on local cable access
- ♣ Keep dreaming of other things YOU can do to Champion OUR native plants – a great public resource to be enjoyed by all!

Please be sure to check out our website
www.cnpsci.org
weekly to view updates and current events

BALLOT

Please fill out the ballot below and mail to: CNPS Channel Islands, PO Box 6, Ojai, California 93024.
(we cannot operate without them)...

CNPS Channel Islands Chapter 2007-2008 Ballot

Office	Candidate	Vote	
		Yes	No
President	David Magney		
Vice President	Lynne Kada		
Secretary	Cher Batchelor		
Treasurer	Marlane Malarkey		
Member-at-Large	Stuart Bloom		
Member-at-Large	Scott Brown		
Member-at-Large	Steve Hoskinson		

Please print your name: _____

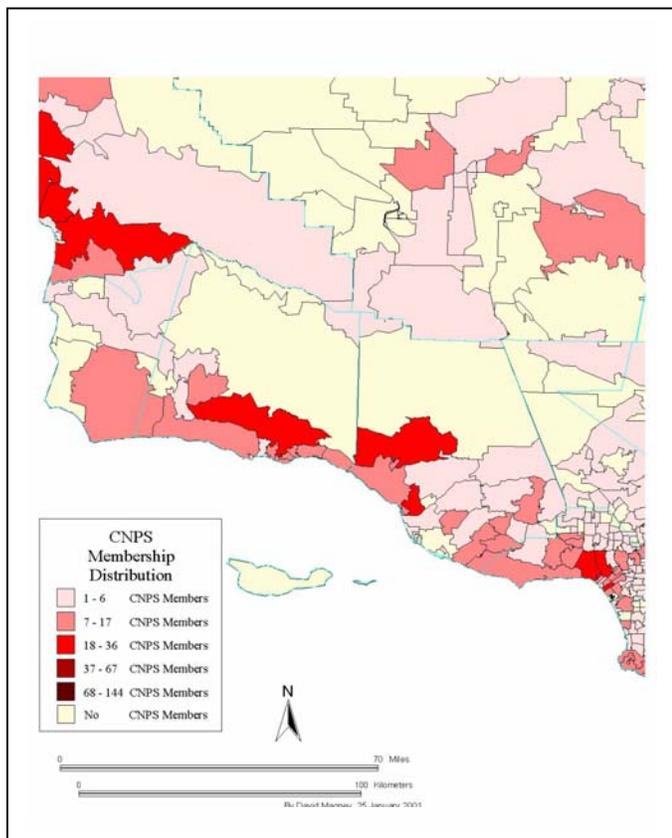
Please sign your name: _____ Date: _____

Interest in attending the Annual Dinner at Old Creek Ranch Winery: High _____ Medium _____ Low _____

Please check here to save \$ and natural resources by receiving this newsletter only in its electronic version (.pdf) _____



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Channel Islands Chapter Officers/Program Contacts

Office/Position	Name	Phone #	Email Address
President*:	David Magney	646-6045	david@magney.org
Vice President*:	Lynne Kada	643-4842	kada@yahoo.com
Secretary*:	Cher Batchelor	639-0653	cher@magney.org
Acting Treasurer*:	Marlane Malarkey		marlane@magney.org
Conservation*:	David Magney	646-6045	david@magney.org
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Education*:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Horticulture*:	Patt McDaniel	646-9948	mcins@west.net
Legislation*:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
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	Rick Burgess	983-1312	
Rare Plant Coord. (SB):	Steve Junak	682-4726	sjunak@sbbg.org
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Program Facilitator (SB):	Andrea Adams-Morden	684-8077	aaadamsmorden@yahoo.com
Program Facilitator (V):	Richard Bradley	646-6633	
Publicity:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Field Trips:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Plant Sales:	Lynne Kada	643-4842	kada@yahoo.com
Poster Sales:	Scott Brown	525-9905	sbrown5534@aol.com
Member-At-Large*:	Stuart Bloom		vellicator@aol.com
Member-At-Large*:	Steve Hoskinson		steveh@magney.org
Member-At-Large*:	Scott Brown	525-9905	sbrown5534@aol.com
Webmaster	David Magney	646-6045	webmaster@cnpsci.org

(All telephone numbers are in Area Code 805)

* = officer (voting)

CNPS Membership Application

Category	Annual Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/Retired/Limited Income	\$ 30
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual or Library	\$ 45
<input type="checkbox"/> Family or Group	\$ 60
<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, California 95816-5113