



Matilija Copy

Volume 20, Issue 2

SUMMER 2007

Editor: William B. Abbott

Calendar of Events

You may have noticed the small girth of this newsletter. We are attempting to limit our expenses, use of paper, and ecological footprint by reducing the newsletter's scope. As we continue to head in the electronic (and GREEN!) direction... Please see the

"Current Chapter Events"

tab at

www.CNPSCI.org

for the most current information. You'll find full descriptions and reviews of Chapter Activities, along with great color photographs. Many events are added (and some, unfortunately, cancelled) with only a few days' notice. And be sure to get on our email list by emailing editor@cnpsci.org and requesting to be added.

A few upcoming events & reminders are listed below...

Los Padres National Forest Flora

Location: E. P. Foster Library, Ventura

Date and Time: **Wednesday, June 20th, 7:15PM**

Speaker: **Lloyd Simpson, LPNF Botanist**

Lloyd will tell us what interesting things are happening – political and botanical – in the Los Padres National Forest, the largest National Forest in California!

Mini Plant ID Session before – get there early!

July, August and September Speakers

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

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

Check www.cnpsci.org for information closer to the dates. Please be advised that due to lack of attendance, some monthly speaker programs may be canceled, and we may take a break during summer months.

Channel Islands Chapter Annual Dinner

Location: **TBA**

Date and Time: **TBA**

The Annual Dinner is being reinvented. We're thinking that an early dinner, with an afternoon hike beforehand, may be a nice change of pace from the evening events of years' past. What do you think? And we're moving it to the Spring, when botanizing is better. Send an email to secretary@cnpsci.org with questions, comments, and ideas about our annual get together. See you next Spring!!

Ormond Pointe Native Plant Nursery

CNPS has recently teamed up with a group of volunteers running a native plant nursery near Ormond Beach in Oxnard. Nancy Pederson, who heads this group with Patricia Munro, details the history of this dedicated group and their impressive undertaking...

The Ormond Pointe Native Plant Nursery and Restoration Project was started in 2006 by Nancy Pedersen with botanical help from Patricia Munro. It is a nursery to grow native plants for the future of the Ormond Beach wetlands, but it is so much more.

Much of the Ormond Beach wetlands has been or will be purchased by The Nature Conservancy or Coastal Conservancy. They are working on their restoration plans, but it will be many years before the plans are fully implemented. In the meantime, we thought we could help...

Recognizing the long lag time between the work now being done and the future public use of the wetlands, we worked with the City of Oxnard to find land where we could do small-scale restoration. We were given eleven acres of degraded wetlands at the end of Perkins Road that are owned by the Oxnard Waste Water Department – land that had previously been used as a dump site. It is bermed on three sides with no access to the ocean. We were helped by the City of Oxnard, which installed a hose bib and fenced a small part of this area to be used as the Outdoor Classroom, and by the Parks Department, which provided picnic tables to be used by student participants. Other initial help, in the form of funding, came from Cal-Gisler Neighborhood Council, Morey Navarro (a local businessman and former Planning Commission member), Sammy Abdulhai of Fiesta Restaurant, the children of Dr. Holden (our Mayor), and Dr. Armington (a local veterinarian), with in-kind assistance from Oxnard City Corps, Ventura County Master Gardeners, and the Saviers Road Design Team.

At first, we inventoried the site and spent much time and thought formulating an action plan. Through this process, we outlined our goals, which are to grow native plants for use on our restoration site as well as for the City of Oxnard's water reclamation GREAT program. We will also grow annuals to have as a seed supply for possible use in other parts of Ormond Beach. Additionally, we

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will remove non-native vegetation to encourage natives in the seed bank to grow. Through this process, we realized that our Native Plant Nursery serves many educational purposes for adults and schoolchildren alike; education, therefore, became one of our major goals.

We have begun achieving these goals. First, we educated and secured our volunteer workforce. We have held workdays to weed and to gather seeds with volunteers from the community working under the direction of Patricia Munro and Nancy Pedersen. And the first of our school groups have already toured! In January, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary team came to our site with three different school groups. The children planted flats with the seeds we had gathered. These schools were unable to raise the seeds themselves, so our Adopt-a-Flat program recruited volunteers, including students at another school, to raise 27 flats of seeds until they can be planted in the restoration sites. These students also went on plant walks with Master Gardeners as docents.

All of our programs, like the one outlined above, are designed to teach students from elementary school age to university age about wetlands. Our participants learn why native plants are important not only as habitat for endangered wildlife, but as part of water-wise gardening. Ormond Pointe does more than educate students about native plants and the ecology of the Oxnard's wetlands. We teach them the connections between our nursery and the world around them.

And for us, we've realized that our workdays, school groups, volunteer groups, assistance from city staff – even the solicitation of funds for our project – are all educational opportunities. We are working to ensure that as many people as possible know about and have a stake in the restoration of Ormond Beach.

To volunteer, call Patricia Munroe at 805-983-1312.

Nancy Pedersen, Master Gardener

Recent CNPS Conservation Action

Our local CNPS chapter has taken on the sand & gravel mines of the Cuyama River Valley. President David Magney and Secretary Cher Batchelor have advocated on behalf of CNPSCI in reviewing the FEIR for the expansion of mining activities in Northern Santa Barbara County. Other mine expansions on the Ventura side of the county line have also been addressed. Increasing mining activities will impact traffic throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, as well as endanger rare plant communities near the mines. See www.cnpsci.org and click on the "Conservation Issues" tab for a full report, with maps and aerial photographs of the threatened plant communities.

Cher's Favorite Plant!

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



Calochortus clavatus var. *clavatus* (Club-haired Mariposa Lily) with purple anthers (and dark pollinators!) in Hidden Valley, Newbury Park. Photos: William Abbott.

My favorite plant, at least for this month, is *Calochortus clavatus* var. *clavatus* (Club-haired Mariposa Lily). This flower is in the Liliaceae (Lily family), it blooms April through June, and is quite a beauty; however, the anatomy of this specimen is intricate...are you ready? Club-haired Mariposa Lily is a perennial graminoid that grows 50-100 cm high from a bulb by generally zig-zagged stems. The flowers are cup-shaped with deep yellow petals marked with red-brown near the base and banded darker above the nectary. Petal hairs are club-shaped. The nectary is round, depressed, and surrounded by a fringed membrane. The nectary surface is densely short-knobby-hairy. The flower anthers are deep purple making amazing contrast from the yellow petals. Shhheew! I told you so. Club-haired Mariposa Lily is listed by CNPS as 4.3 (4 = plants of limited distribution and are on a watch list; .3 = not very endangered in California [<20% of occurrences threatened]). You will find these beauties when you are least expecting it, as they are quite uncommon. This lily grows on serpentine soils (except in Ventura County where it grows on other substrates) in Subalpine Forest, Yellow Pine Forest, Chaparral, and Coastal Sage Scrub habitats at elevations below 1,300 (2,900) meters. Hope you get a chance to see these in all their glory!

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 editor@cnpsci.org if you need more information.

Dates:

Saturday, 23 June 2007, 9AM to 2PM. Horn Canyon and spur trails. Meet at the Horn Canyon trailhead on the campus of the Thacher School at 9AM. At the entrance of the school, stay to the right on the paved perimeter road, then turn right on the dirt road and cross the barranca. The trailhead will be on the left before the horse fields. This intermediate hike may explore some side canyons and spur trails off of Horn Canyon, depending on interest.

Saturday, 14 July 2007, 9AM to 1PM. Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Ventura River-Rancho El Nido Preserve. Meet at the Riverview Trailhead on Rice Road, just south of El Roblar Road in Meiners Oaks at 9AM for a slow-going botany-focused exploration.

Saturday(s) in August and September... not scheduled yet, but be sure to check www.cnpsci.org throughout the summer!

RESTORATION & WEEDING OPPORTUNITIES

A message from our Santa Barbara Programs Hospitality Manager and Carpinteria Bluffs Spearheader, Andrea Adams-Morden:

We weed at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park the first Saturday of the month at 9AM. We meet by the telescope entrance on Ash Avenue between Third and Sandyland Avenue. Bring sun protection, water, gloves, and enthusiasm. We always see birds, insects, lizards, and sometimes friendly snakes.

We weed at the Carpinteria Bluffs Bailard parking lot at 1PM the first Saturday of the month. We have some new plants there that need to be cared for and weeded as well. You can't beat the view of the ocean and islands from this exceptional weeding venue.

For more information call 684-8077 or email carp_parks@yahoo.com.

Change of Date! CNPS Conservation Symposium

Location: Sacramento (formerly Pacific Grove)
Date: **February, 2009 (formerly October 2008)**

More to come at www.cnpsci.org... Also visit www.cnps.org for statewide CNPS information.

A Recap of the Spring Native Plant Sale

This Spring's Native Plant Sale at Plaza Park in downtown Ventura was our most successful ever! Thanks to all of our supporters who bought plants or came by to see what the commotion was all about. And a BIG thanks is owed to Bob from Matilija Nursery for providing us with the lovely plants.

A number of folks who showed up later in the day were disappointed that so many plants were sold out! For the next plant sale, make sure to get there early. And remember, you can always special order plants in advance. *As we gear up for the Fall Plant Sale, make sure to contact Lynne Kada (CNPSCI Vice President) at 643-4842 or lynnekada@yahoo.com to place a special orders if you're looking for something in particular!* We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Plant Sale.



A gorgeous Romneya coulteri from the Spring Plant Sale happy now at home in the garden of Cindy Rowland.

Photo: Cindy Rowland

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.

CHANNEL ISLANDS CHAPTER OFFICERS/PROGRAM CONTACTS

Office/Position	Name	Telephone Number	Email Address
President*:	David Magney	805-646-6045	president@cnpsci.org
Vice President*:	Lynne Kada	805-643-4842	lynnekada@yahoo.com
Secretary*:	Cher Batchelor	805-639-0653	secretary@cnpsci.org
Treasurer*:	Marlane Malarkey		treasurer@cnpsci.org
Conservation*:	David Magney	805-646-6045	president@cnpsci.org
Vegetation/PlantScience*:	Ken Niessen	805-646-8650	kgniessen@sbcglobal.net
Horticulture*:	Patt McDaniel	805-646-9948	mcins@west.net
Rare Plant Coord. (V):	David Magney	805-646-6045	president@cnpsci.org
	Rick Burgess	805-983-1312	
Rare Plant Coord. (SB):	Steve Junak	805-682-4726	sjunak@sbbg.org
Membership:	R. Elise DePuydt	805-798-2245	suncoast@west.net
Newsletter Editor:	William Abbott	805-684-1520	editor@cnpsci.org
Invasive Exotics:	Ken Niessen	805-646-8650	kgniessen@sbcglobal.net
	Steve Hoskinson		stevh@magney.org
Programs:	Lynne Kada	805-643-4842	lynnekada@yahoo.com
Program Facilitator (SB):	Andrea Adams-Morden	805-684-8077	aadamsmorden@yahoo.com
Program Facilitator (V):	Richard Bradley	805-646-6633	ojai.bradley@yahoo.com
Plant Sales:	Lynne Kada	805-643-4842	lynnekada@yahoo.com
Poster Sales:	Scott Brown	805-525-9905	sbrown5534@aol.com
Publicity:	Heidi Mauer	805-649-9012	
Webmaster	David Magney	805-646-6045	webmaster@cnpsci.org
Members-At-Large*:	Stuart Bloom (vellicator@aol.com), Steve Hoskinson (see Invasives), and Scott Brown (see Posters)		

* = officer (voting)

Positions not filled (your name could be here!!!!): Education, Legislation, and Field Trips.

Contact us to volunteer!

California Native Plant Society ~ Channel Islands Chapter
 P.O. Box 6 ~ Ojai, California 93024
www.cnpsci.org



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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

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