



Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society,
serving Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties

Matilija Copy

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Editor: Heather E. Schneider

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Next Meeting: Thursday March 19
@ 7 pm. Santa Barbara Botanic
Garden Library

Upcoming Events

Native Plant Garden Party – 20596 South Mountain Road, Santa Paula

When: February 7, 2015 @ 12 pm – 3 pm

Hosts: Debby Burns & Andrea Adams-Morden

Enjoy a native plant garden surrounding a “green” home in an orange orchard in Santa Paula. See how you can beautify your home with a drought tolerant native plant garden. Bring your lunch, lemonade will be provided.

Directions: Take 126 to exit 150. Turn toward Santa Paula, then turn right on East Harvard (the first street you come to). Turn right under the freeway at South Mountain Rd. Continue until just past Glanville Road on the left. Turn right at the sign. Call 805-657-8796 for more information.

Botany and Bird Hike – Sulphur Mountain, Casitas Springs

When: February 14, 2015 @ 9 am – 1:30 pm

Leaders: David Torfeh & Saudamini Sindhar

Experience a pleasant hike with your Valentine and learn the plants and birds of Sulphur Mtn. Wildflowers will be starting to bloom. Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes or boots, a camera and lunch. No restrooms. Children of all ages who enjoy butterflies, birds and plants are welcome. Meet at the locked gate at 9 am. Anything more than light rain cancels. *Directions:* From 101 Fwy. in Ventura, take Hwy. 33 North, after ~6 miles turn right onto Sulphur Mtn. Rd. Park along the road near the Girl Scout Camp. Call David for additional info (805) 794-5334.

Oh, Those Fabulous Fungi

When: February 28, 2015 @ 10 am – 12 pm

Instructor: Bob Cummings

Venue: Skofield Park

Chanterelles, morels and deadly amanitas are only a few of the mysterious local mushrooms you may meet in this morning foray to Skofield Park. Join Bob Cummings for this fun field trip in search of fungi. Bring sturdy shoes, water and a snack. This trip may be cancelled in the event that it does not rain.

The Best Spring Wildflower Spots

When: March 19, 2015 @ 7:15 pm

Speaker: Spencer Westbrook

Venue: Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Library, 1212 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara, CA

Spencer, an outstanding nature photographer, will share his knowledge of the best places to find spring wildflowers in California with a talk and slide show. Bring your unknown native plants to ID before the talk.

President's Message – David Magney

Finally, we have a newsletter again! Hopefully, before the next issue of the Matilija Copy comes out I will no longer be the chapter president, the position I have held for over a decade (too long, really). We have some great new, younger, and energetic leaders coming onto the board (IF YOU ALL VOTE).

I will still be around, focusing my attentions on conservation and rare plant issues. I have also completed three years as the Chairman of the CNPS Chapter Council at the end of 2014. I will remain active at the state level, but on committees rather than in a leadership position.

One of the big tasks I am leading at the state level is chairing the Botanist Certification Program Committee, where we will develop a comprehensive program to determine which professional botanists are indeed qualified to call themselves a botanist. We aim to make it simple for qualified botanists to become certified, solely by testing their knowledge. We will not rely on their qualifications or formal education; however, those with experience and education will likely have an easier time becoming certified. CNPS will likely have two levels of certification, one for just the field botanist, and another, more comprehensive level, for those who also perform impact assessments and make mitigation recommendations. The goal is to improve the quality of the professional botanist, focusing on the consulting professionals, support those professionals and provide a means for the public to determine who is indeed competent enough to be certified as a botanist.

At the chapter level, I will continue to maintain the website (www.cnpsci.org), which I encourage you to check on a regular basis, and our Facebook page, which are the most current sources for what is happening locally. There is a link on the homepage to the Calendar of Events page, which provides the date that it was last updated.

Be sure to attend our hikes and evening programs as you will certainly learn something and have an opportunity to meet people with similar interests.

Be sure to provide your current email address to the newsletter editor and membership chair so that we can keep you informed in between newsletters. We never share your email address with others and we promise also not to flood your email inbox with very many emails.

A Welcome Note from Your New Editor – Heather Schneider

I want to extend a heartfelt “hello!” to everyone. I am a relative newcomer to the CNPS Channel Islands Chapter, but I am no stranger to CNPS. I moved to southern California from Chicago nearly 10 years ago to attend graduate school at UC Riverside. I joined the botany department, where I eventually earned a PhD studying the impacts of invasive plants and nitrogen deposition on native winter annuals in the Colorado and Mojave Deserts. As a graduate student, I became active with the local CNPS chapter and helped out at science events and plant sales. I also gave a presentation on my dissertation research at one of our meetings. I moved to Santa Barbara in 2013 and joined the Channel Islands Chapter in 2014.

I am currently working as a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology at UCSB. My research interests include community ecology and the evolution of wild plants in response to climate change. One of my current study species is the lovely *Clarkia unguiculata* (Elegant Clarkia; see below). It is such a treat to work with these little beauties!



Photo: Heather Schneider

I'm excited to revive the newsletter and hope to bring you interesting information and keep you informed about educational and volunteer opportunities throughout the year. I also hope to make the newsletter a dynamic document that you can submit ideas, questions or comments to. Please feel free to get in touch with me at: editor@cnpsci.org.

To that end, we would like to get an idea of how many people would prefer an email-only copy of the newsletter. Please email me to let me know if you prefer an e-newsletter. All newsletter issues are also available on our chapter website: cnpsci.org.

Research News – Heather Schneider

Several faculty members at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) will be participating in a newly funded research initiative throughout the University of California Natural Reserve System (UC NRS). The UC-wide Institute for the Study of Ecological and Evolutionary Climate Impacts (ISEECI) was awarded \$1.9 million in December 2014 through the UC President's Research Catalyst Award. The ISEECI will be led by UC Santa Cruz professor Barry Sinervo.

The UC NRS was founded in 1965 and is the world's largest system of university-administrated natural reserves and offers researchers a unique opportunity to study the effects of climate change across the state. There are currently 39 reserves in the system, which cover more than 756,000 acres. Most of the research done in the reserves to date has been independent. This new funding will facilitate more collaborative research and synthesis across a large geographic gradient. The goal of the ISEECI is to develop multi-campus climate-change related research projects using several or all of the UC NRS, which are scattered throughout California and encompass a gradient of climates, topography, and biological diversity throughout the state. These UC NRS research projects will involve the use of historical records as well as creating infrastructure to collect new data such as remote sensing and phenological monitoring.

Dr. Susan Mazer, a professor in UCSB's department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, has already begun monitoring plant phenology (the study of seasonal life cycle events) in the reserves through the California Phenology Project (CPP) and plans to expand phenological monitoring by including additional reserves and study species. She recently gave a presentation to the chapter, stimulating lots of interest from those in attendance.

Other proposed research includes studying the effects of climate change on oak and pine establishment by Dr. Frank Davis, a professor at UCSB's Bren School of Environmental Science & Management and director of the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). Dr. Cherie Briggs, UCSB's Duncan, and Suzanne Mellichamp Chair in Systems Biology, will continue and expand research on the effects of climate change on tick-borne pathogens, such as Lyme disease.

The ISEECI will eventually provide research and funding opportunities for graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty throughout the UC system. This is a big step forward for the UC NRS and environmental research throughout California.



Field of native lupines (*Lupinus* spp.) and poppies (*Eschscholzia californica* & *E. caespitosa*) at Hastings Natural History Reserve in Monterey County. Photo: Heather Schneider

Conservation Front – David Magney

- **Newhall Ranch Lawsuit:** There is an ongoing lawsuit against the Newhall Ranch development and the California Department of Fish & Game (CDFG) regarding the spineflower conservation plan environmental impact report (EIR). CNPS and other environmental groups initially filed suit in January 2011 stating that the CDFG's certification of the EIR and issuing a "take" permit will destroy roughly 25% of the spineflower in the San Fernando Valley. CNPS *et al.* won the initial lawsuit in the California superior court, but lost an appeal by CDFG and Newhall Ranch. The case will be heard by the California Supreme Court in late January 2015. (Note: CDFG changed its name to Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife [CDFW] at the beginning of 2014.)
- **Climate Change Impacts on Local Flora:** The president of our chapter, David Magney, has written an informative article on the chapter website about the effects of global climate change, particularly climate warming and sea level rise, on our local flora. Some predictions suggest that sea level may rise by up to 20 feet by the year 2100. This would have dramatic effects on coastal communities worldwide. Locally, a large swath of Ventura County's coastline would be lost if sea level rose by 20 feet. David's article includes a map of the areas that would be affected, along with a list of native species that would be most vulnerable to this habitat loss. To read more, please visit our website:
www.cnpsci.org/Conservation/GlobalWarming.htm

Arroyo Grande Hike Review – David Torfeh

Eleven people, including the leader, David Torfeh, and two toddlers participated in the chapter's Arroyo Verde Park Botany and Bird Hike on Saturday, December 20, 2014. Although it was a cloudy day, it did not rain. The weather was cool, affording a pleasant hike with many stops through the coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. The most interesting plants we spotted were the tall spikey native *Artemisia dracunculus* (Tarragon) – not flowering, the pale lavender-blossomed native *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* (Cudweed Aster) -- flowering, both common native species of *Solanum* (*douglasii* and *xanti*, both poisonous Nightshades) -- flowering, and *Epilobium canum* (California Fuchsia) – flowering. Because it was December, most flowering plants were not blooming and many plants were dried up or had lost leaves, so we had the opportunity to practice some forensic botany. At least some plants were sparsely flowering. Participants learned which plants were edible and that were not.

We either saw or heard many common bird species in the Park, including the California Thrasher (a Robin-sized brown bird with a large curved bill that sounds almost like a Northern Mockingbird), the raucous, clown-faced, medium-sized Acorn Woodpecker, the Northern Flicker (a large, mustachioed woodpecker), and the Wrentit (a small, long-tailed brown bird with a bouncing ball-type call). We had striking views of the iridescent magenta facial feathers of at least one male Anna's Hummingbird. Toward the end of the hike, the elaborate trilling calls of the Bewick's Wren rang from the western hillside.

Native Plant Profile: Coastal California Poppy – Scott Tomkinson

Few flowers evoke a sense of place as elegantly as the California Poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*). With colors ranging from deep orange and bright gold to cultivars in crimson and cream, the iconic California Poppy was named our state flower in 1903 and continues to be a powerful symbol of California's beauty. The taxonomic treatment for the genus *Eschscholzia*; however, has not been as wholeheartedly embraced and accepted over the past century as its designation of being our state flower. Taxa in the genus *Eschscholzia* numbered well over one hundred¹ just after the California poppy's designation as state flower in 1903, but have since dwindled to a meager ten accepted species². This reduction in accepted species is attributed to the fact that many of the originally described taxa are actually just "environmental variants"³, meaning that the defining traits of those taxa are a result of external pressures and not necessarily indicative of speciation. Plants seen in the wild from different regions would look quite unique, but when grown together under the same conditions, e.g. in a garden, it became clear that many were more similar than first thought.

One description to have fallen out of favor in more recent botanical literature is that of our local Coastal California Poppy. Sometimes referred to as *Eschscholzia californica* var. *maritima*^{4,7}, the Coastal California Poppy is distinct from its inland counterpart^{1,4,5,6,7} and is specifically adapted to the coastal environment⁶. The Coastal California Poppy is easily differentiated from the inland variety by its two-toned petal, typically bright yellow on the tips and a deep orange in the center, rather than the solid orange of the inland variety. While inland California Poppies tend to behave as annuals, Coastal California Poppies can live for several years by storing nutrients and moisture in their taproots. The coastal variety also takes advantage of fog drip to survive the rainless summers of our Mediterranean climate. This allows the coastal variety to sometimes grow quite large and bloom well into fall⁷ and winter. In contrast, the inland variety is ill equipped to hazard the foggy summers of the coast and is susceptible to mildew. The adaptations of the Coastal California Poppy is what enables it to thrive in foggy dunes and coastal terraces from Ventura to San Luis Obispo^{1,7}.

1. Greene, Edward L. *Pittonia*: a series of papers relating to botany and botanists. Volume V. 1902-1905. Washington, D.C.
2. Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken, editors. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, second edition. University of California Press, Berkeley.
3. Still, Shannon M., & D. Potter. *Systematic Botany* 38(1):104-117. 2013. The American Society of Plant Taxonomists.
4. Jepson, W.L. *A Flora of California*. 1909-1940, 1979. University of California Press, Berkeley
5. Munz, P.A. *A California Flora*. 1963. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.
6. Leger, E.A., and K.J. Rice. *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* 20(3):1090-1103. May 2007.
7. Smith, C.F. *A Flora of the Santa Barbara Region, California*, second edition. 1998. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Capra Press.



Photo: Scott Tomkinson

Happy 50th Birthday CNPS! – Heather Schneider

2015 is the 50th anniversary of the California Native Plant Society. Since 1965, CNPS has been dedicated to preserving and protecting California's native plants. CNPS is an organization for scientists, naturalists, managers, gardeners and hobbyists alike. The organization supports participate in research, outreach, and policy throughout the state.

The stated mission of the CNPS is as follows: “to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats and increase understanding, appreciation and horticultural uses of plants.”

CNPS hosted a conservation conference in San Jose, CA January 15-17 to celebrate “50 years of progress and promise.” Over 1,000 scientists, conservationists, chapter members, policy makers, professionals, etc. attended. Several of our CNPS Channel Islands Chapter members attended and presented talks, workshops and posters. For more information, please visit: www.cnps.org. Videos of each of the talks will be available online in the near future.

It's Election Time!

Voting is an important way of showing support for your local CNPS chapter. It is an opportunity for you to get involved and volunteer for open board member positions. We are also looking of volunteers for several appointed positions, so please contact us if you are interested in volunteering. David Magney is wearing many hats for us right now and would gladly welcome some newcomers to the board! Holding elections is also required as part of keeping our non-profit status. Please take the time read the candidate bios and then clip the following page out of the newsletter, fill our your ballot and mail it to **CNPS Channel Islands at P.O. Box 6, Ojai, CA 93024**

If you prefer to vote online, please follow this link to Survey Monkey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XL5P6Q8>

Please note that you can only vote once!

Thank you!

Looking for ideas for planting a native garden at your house? Check out this publication from the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District for ideas: <http://www.lvmwd.com/home/showdocument?id=711>



Photos: Heather Schneider

Election Candidate Bios:

President: Andrea Adams-Morden

- Andrea has been active with the chapter since 2005. She has hosted Santa Barbara area programs, coordinated weed eradication and restoration activities and is currently serving as both the Education Committee Chair and Invasive Exotics Committee Chair (since 2009). She has a degree in Anthropology and Psychology from UCLA and has taught life science in Los Angeles and Carpinteria School Districts. She is a Master Gardener, a docent at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and is active in several other local organizations. She is eager to put all of her experience to use as chapter president.

Vice President: Scott Tomkinson

- Scott began his love affair with native plants while growing up in the rural Ojai valley. Surrounded by oak woodland and chaparral, Scott became inspired to learn about the abundant diversity in the hills and valleys around him through exploration and study. A graduate of UCSB, Scott now works as a restoration ecologist with the Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration at UCSB and manages several natural areas around the campus. He has a particular interest in invasive species management and rare plant recovery.

Secretary: Heather Schneider

- Heather grew up in Chicago and moved to CA for graduate school. She has been active in CNPS since 2006. She has a PhD in botany and works as a postdoctoral scholar in the Department of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology at UCSB studying evolution of wild plants in response to environmental change and working on a collaborative project to create a research seed bank to study evolution of wild plants across the country. Heather joined the Channel Islands Chapter in 2014 and has also taken on the position of newsletter editor.

Treasurer: Stuart Bloom

- Stuart is the current chapter treasurer and has held the position since 2006. He is a medical doctor with a family practice in Ventura. Stuart is active in the community, including the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society and Audobon Society.

Members-at-Large

- Matt Guilliams: Matt is finishing his PhD work in the Baldwin Lab at UC Berkeley. He recently joined the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden staff as the Ken & Shirley Tucker Systematist. His research focuses on major themes in plant evolutionary biology, including the inference of evolutionary relationships using morphological and molecular data, biogeographic inference and study of adaptive radiation in the CA Floristic Province. He is currently working on a Flora of Santa Catalina Island.
- Frédérique Lavoipierre: Frédérique is the Education Program Manager at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. She also teaches classes and workshops on many aspects of sustainable landscaping, including ecological principles, habitat gardens, beneficial insects, soil ecology, etc. She has over three decades of experience in the use of plants to enhance conservation and biological control in garden, nursery and small farm settings.
- David Torfeh: David has been a chapter member-at-large since 2010. He has been an active member for many years and is also an avid birder. He has led or co-led many local botany hikes for the chapter. He is also assisting David Magney with the Flora of Ventura County by working with voucher specimens and their associated data.

CNPS Channel Islands Chapter Board of Directors Election 2015

Please place a check mark next to each candidate you wish to vote for or write in the name of a candidate you wish to add.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Your Vote</u>
President	Andrea Adams-Morden	_____
Vice President	Scott Tomkinson	_____
Secretary	Heather Schneider	_____
Treasurer	Stuart Bloom	_____
 <i>Vote for 3 Members-at-Large</i>		
Member-at-Large	Matt Guilliams	_____
Member-at-Large	Frédérique Lavoipierre	_____
Member-at-Large	David Torfeh	_____

Detach and mail to:

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

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

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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CNPS Membership Application

Category	Annual Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 45
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Group/Organization	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	\$ 75
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Group/Firm	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$600
<input type="checkbox"/> Mariposa Lily.....	\$1500
<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income	\$ 25

**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

You can also join or renew online at www.cnps.org