

California Native Plant Society Channel Islands Chapter



Native Plant Landscape Symposium Promoting Sustainability from Nature

Camarillo Ranch House Barn

February 20th, 2010

CNPS Channel Islands Chapter ~ Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora.

www.cnpsci.org ~ P.O. Box 6, Ojai, California 93024 ~ (805) 646-6045

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Welcome

The Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society has been holding native plant sales and answering questions for 20 years. With a surge in interest in growing natives for sustainability, water conservation, bringing wildlife into the garden, and pure enjoyment, we have more questions than a handful of volunteers can answer. As such, we have brought together some of the most knowledgeable and dynamic speakers in southern California for a day of sharing knowledge, creative ideas, and beautiful photographs on landscaping with native plants. This symposium will delight those new to growing native plants as well as the experienced horticulturist.

Welcome and enjoy!

Schedule

7:30 – 8:20	Registration, meet, greet, coffee, and fruit/pastry
8:20 - 8:30	Introduction
8:30 – 9:45	Owen E. Dell ~ “Sustainable Landscaping: A Visionary Look at the Future of Gardens”
9:45 – 9:55	Break
9:55 – 10:50	Richard Halsey ~ “Why Native Plants, Grizzly Bears, and Nature Matter”
10:50 – 11:45	Greg Rubin ~ “Designing and Installing Successful Native Landscapes”
11:45 – 1:00	Buffet lunch (catered by Carrie Clough). Concurrent native plant sales (Nopalito Native Plant Nursery), book sales & signing, and viewing of natives around The Barn
1:00 – 1:55	Carol Bornstein ~ “Habitat Gardening: If You Plant It, They Will Come”
1: 55 – 2:50	Michael Inaba ~ “Oak Tree Care: How to Plan, Plant, and Manage Oak Trees”
2:50 – 3:05	Break
3:05 —4:00	Barbara Eisenstein ~“Creating a Wild Suburbia with California Native Plants”
4:00 – 5:00	Bart O’Brien ~ “Springtime Blues to Fiery Falls – Seasons of Color in the Native Garden”
5:00 – 5:30	Last-chance book sales, signing, mingling (everyone invited to help clean up)

Featured Speakers

Owen E. Dell, ASLA (Santa Barbara, CA)

Principal of Owen Dell & Associates, Landscape Architect, Educator, Author

Presentation: Sustainable garden “wise guy” Owen Dell will be speaking on “Sustainable Landscaping: A Visionary Look at the Future of Gardens.” Owen will be presenting an overview of the potential for sustainable landscaping (including native plants) to be a powerful force for good, to provide essential services - such as wildlife habitat, climate control around homes, local food production, and more - and to satisfy human needs while protecting and improving the environment. He will show attendees how good it can get when they follow the principles of sustainable landscaping on their properties. In addition to an overview of the concepts of sustainable landscaping, Owen will provide practical, nuts-&-bolts advice for how to design, build, and live with a truly sustainable landscape.

Biography: Owen Dell, ASLA is an award-winning, internationally admired landscape architect, author and educator. He is the principal of Owen Dell & Associates in Santa Barbara, specializing in sustainable landscape architectural services, firescaping, and native landscaping. Owen has been part of the landscaping profession since 1971, and he has pioneered many of the practices of sustainable landscaping presently in use worldwide. Owen lectures around the country and internationally on sustainable landscaping and related topics. He is the author of *How to Start a Home-Based Landscaping Business* and *Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies*. Owen is also a regular contributor to many national and regional horticultural publications. He is the co-host and co-creator of the popular Santa Barbara television series, *Garden Wise Guys*.

Contact Information: (805) 962-3253; owen@owendell.com; www.owendell.com.

You can also find Owen on his blog at <http://owendell.com/blog/>, and on Facebook and LinkedIn.

Commentary: “The world is on the precipice, facing the collapse of global ecosystems, massive loss of species, fragile and failing food and energy systems, and many other significant problems. How could landscaping ever hope to address even a tiny bit of this? Well, the land is the basis for all life, human and otherwise. It is humans who have created the problems we are experiencing, mainly through the abuse of the earth’s abundance. Modern people are utterly out of touch with natural systems, and act as if their extravagant lifestyles were made possible by man-made technologies rather than by the generosity of the Earth itself. The modern homeowner is sitting on a gold mine, but has no understanding of how to optimize the resources at his or her command. The homeowner’s land, still part of planet Earth despite being treated abusively through poor landscaping practices, holds one of the keys to survival. When we begin to treat our land as a precious resource, and when intelligent land management practices once again become part of the fabric of our societies, we can begin to realize the potential for living well off the land, off OUR OWN land. By teaching people the techniques of sustainable landscaping, we provide them with the key to unlocking that potential and we direct them onto a path of abundance, respect for living systems, and joy at living in harmony with the earth that gives us all life. Is landscaping important? Is it something more than mere decoration? The answer is YES, and attendees of this event will be treated to a detailed look at just how good it can be to have a truly sustainable, beautiful landscape.”

Richard W. Halsey (Escondido, CA)

Chaparral/Fire Ecologist, Director of The California Chaparral Institute, Author

Presentation: Richard Halsey, chaparral/fire ecologist, author, and founder of The California Chaparral Institute, will be speaking on “Why Native Plants, Grizzly Bears, and Nature Matter.” This talk will present the importance of connecting with the natural environment and why it is critical to protect what's left of California’s native biodiversity.

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Biography: Richard Halsey is the director of the California Chaparral Institute, a non-profit, research and educational organization focusing on the ecology of California's chaparral ecosystems, the dynamics of wildland fire in both natural and human communities, and the promotion of nature education in a way that encourages communities to better connect with their surrounding, natural environment. Mr. Halsey also works with the San Diego Museum of Natural History and has been trained as a Type II wildland firefighter. The second edition of his book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*, was published in 2008.

Contact Information: The California Chaparral Institute, P.O. Box 545 Escondido, California 92033; (760) 822-0029; www.californiachaparral.org

Commentary: "Without a citizen-based understanding of why the natural environment matters and how native ecosystems function, the preservation of California's remarkable biodiversity will be impossible. Policy makers need to be made aware that their constituents care about nature so they will develop the necessary laws to insure the ecological health of our communities, both human and non-human. At the present moment, native plant communities in California are mistakenly seen more as "fuel" than an integral part of a healthy lifestyle. As a result, thousands of acres of habitat, especially native shrublands, are being destroyed by unnecessary clearance operations, poorly planned development, and too-frequent fires. Education is key to correct this trend and help citizens understand that the best way to live with fire is by creating fire safe communities rather than trying to force nature to adapt to us."

Greg Rubin (Escondido, CA)

Founder and President of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc., Author

Presentation: Greg Rubin will be presenting "Designing and Installing Successful Native Landscapes:"

- Basic ecology of native ecosystems and how to emulate it in a landscape situation
- Discussion of how native ecology differs from ornamental horticulture
- The impact of weeds on ecosystems and native landscapes and strategies to deal with them
- Basic design principles for creating year round interest while minimizing maintenance and tumbleweed look
- Fire resistance of native landscapes with photographic examples
- Favorite native plants for various uses
- Irrigating native landscapes
- Native landscape construction techniques
- Analysis of a large-scale failure
- Photographic examples of successful landscapes of various sizes and styles

Biography: Greg Rubin, California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc., design/build contractor, and author, will be speaking on "Landscaping Secrets for the Native Garden," which brings practical experience and understanding to basic design principles for creating year-round interest, minimizing maintenance, fire resistance, irrigation, and success!

Contact Information: California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.; www.calown.com
25950 Los Arboles Ranch Road, Escondido, California 92026; (760) 746-6870; greg@calowndesign.com

Commentary: "There are so many misconceptions about native plants, like:

- Natives are weeds/weeds are native/natives lack color
- Natives are unstable, difficult, and short lived
- Native landscapes are "scruffy" and dormant part of the year
- Native landscapes are an inferior option to conventional landscapes
- Native landscapes are potentially unsafe due to flammability
- Natives should respond well to conventional, ornamental horticulture
- Soils should always be amended, even with native plants
- Drought tolerant natives do well on drip irrigation longterm
- California has always been mostly grassland"

Carol Bornstein (Santa Barbara, CA)
Horticulturalist, Garden Designer, Author

Presentation: “Habitat Gardening: If You Plant It, They Will Come”

Biography: Carol Bornstein is co-author (with David Fross and Bart O’Brien) of *California Native Plants for the Garden*, horticulturist, and garden designer. Carol is one of southern California's most highly respected native plant specialists.

Contact Information: carol@carolbornstein.com; (805) 682-6805

Commentary: “For the past two centuries, human beings have radically altered California’s natural landscapes through agricultural practices, grazing, and development. These actions have jeopardized the many ecosystems that define this extraordinarily diverse state, threatening both plants and animals with extinction. As part of nature, we also depend upon these places for our own survival. By incorporating native plants in public and commercial landscapes as well as private gardens, we can create new habitats or help restore degraded areas, thereby providing an inviting environment for wildlife.”

Michael Inaba (Ojai, CA)
Inaba Horticulture, Certified Arborist Specializing in Oaks

Presentation: Ojai Oak expert Michael Inaba, Arborist with Inaba Horticulture, will be presenting “Oak Tree Care: How to Plan, Plant, and Manage Oak Trees.” He will be speaking on caring for and planting around oaks, gardening with existing native oak trees, understanding sun/shade requirements and plant growth, and soil considerations. This presentation will also address how oak trees influence the planning process, installation, and maintenance of native plant landscapes.

Biography: Mike brings a refreshing, familiar speaking style and a University of California education to his work as a Certified Arborist. He’s quick to point out that many areas of horticulture overlap- and in his presentation you’ll learn how design, plant selection, installation and maintenance influence the health and longevity of the oak trees.

Contact Information: Inaba Horticulture; P.O. Box 245 Ojai, California 93024; (805) 279-8633
mike@inabahort.net; www.inabahort.net

Commentary: “Native plant landscapes recognize the natural beauty of southern California in a way that no other design choice can. At their best, native plant landscapes promote increased understanding of the natural rhythms of our beautiful and dynamic local landscape. This can manifest itself in improved management of existing landscapes or in redesign/renovation of older resource-hungry landscapes, while minimizing unnecessary impacts to the existing native trees. This symposium builds on the growing interest in low impact landscape choices by showcasing emerging design, installation, and management practices that ensure successful plantings that can save water, reduce green-waste production, and reduce small engine emissions (mowers and blowers).”

***Barbara Eisenstein (South Pasadena, CA), Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Research Associate, Founder of South Pasadena Friends of the Nature Park,
Horticulturist***

Presentation: Barbara Eisenstein, blogger, writer, speaker, and gardener, will be presenting “Creating a Wild Suburbia with California Native Plants.” She will share ideas and information on practical approaches to transitioning from traditional resource-intensive yards to more natural, interesting and fun gardens featuring low-water use and native plants. She will give tips for landscaping and gardening with native plants, and show pictures of a variety of sustainable native plant gardens.

Biography: Barbara works with gardeners, landscape professionals, and horticulturists to advance the use of native plants and sustainable gardening practices in homes and parks.

Contact Information: WeedingWildSuburbia.com

Commentary: “We have embraced a gardening style in which cleanliness, neatness, and orderliness are equated with health and success. Not a blade out of place, not a weed to be seen, not a leaf on the ground; and in California, everything must be green all year long. This has led to waste and the dispersal of poisons throughout our world, both on land and in the oceans. Just as cigarette companies use young, healthy-looking models with super white teeth to promote their deadly product, chemical companies show infants and dogs crawling on unnaturally green lawns that are only achievable with the use of poisonous fertilizers and pesticides. But there is another way. We can have beautiful, interesting, and enjoyable yards without these chemicals. By working with nature we can create exciting gardens with the drama and beauty of life-and-death struggles, courtship, and change. Birds, butterflies, and lizards will share our gardens, bringing us peace and comfort in a stressful world.”

***Bart O’Brien (Upland, CA), Director of Special Projects, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic
Garden, Horticulturist, Botanist, Author***

Presentation: The knowledgeable Bart O’Brien will be presenting “Springtime Blues to Fiery Falls—Seasons of Color in the Native Garden.” Bart will be covering the seasonal aspects of California native plants in the garden. Most people think that our native plants just bloom in the spring, but a well-chosen palette of native plants for a home garden will provide flowers and interest throughout the year.

Biography: Bart O’Brien is Director of Special Projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, an educational institution dedicated to research, conservation, and horticulture of California native plants. An authority on the California flora and of northern Baja California, Mexico, he is also an accomplished collector, grower, photographer, lecturer, and author. He is co-author of two recent books: the award-winning *California Native Plants for the Garden* (with Carol Bornstein and David Fross), and the bilingual (English/Spanish) *Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens* (with Betsey Landis and Ellen Mackey), and is finishing up a third on alternatives to lawns that will be published later this year.

Contact Information: bart.obrien@cgu.edu

Commentary: “The most defining characteristic of our region is our Mediterranean climate. This globally rare climate type determines so much of how we live our outdoor lives. Understanding our Mediterranean climate and how it effects our native plants is critical to the successful use and appreciation of these beautiful plants in our gardens and public landscapes. Events such as this symposium allow people to directly interact with experts from throughout the region. It also provides a great opportunity for people to informally meet and talk to people with similar interests and concerns.”