



Matilija Copy

Volume 15, Issue 4 Editor: David L. Magney September-October 2002

President's Message

Welcome back from your summer activities and hope you were even able to take some time to enjoy our natural heritage areas this summer. From the emails I received, many of you had great outings either in California or in other areas. This next year will bring you a host of wonderful native plant opportunities including:

- Great programs;
- Annual Dinner Meeting; (special thanks to Rita DePuydt for the arrangements);
- Upcoming outings (call if you want to lead a trip or program, we would love to hear what you have to say);
- Fall Plant sale, arranged by Richard Bradley, Kirk Waln and Jim Dale;
- Restoration work parties, including invasive exotic plant removal prior to restoration;
- New and continuing Chapter horticultural, education and school garden outreach efforts;

Special thanks go to all the members who participated in the Channel Islands Chapter information booth at the Santa Barbara Home and Garden Show August 17th and 18th. Our booth was a hit with visitors - with interest in information about CNPS restoration, preservation, education and horticulture efforts, as well as learning about the problems involved with invasive exotics. Thanks to all who are helping with our Chapter events, programs and outreach efforts.

You may want to check the State CNPS website for all the upcoming events. One that may be of interest to many of you is an upcoming "Rapid Assessment" training workshop, presented by Julie Evens, the State vegetation ecologist working with Chapters to support their Plant Science
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See Page 5 for Directions to the E. P. Foster Library and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Upcoming Programs

"Plant News from the California Islands: Some Good, Some Bad" with Steve Junak

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, September 18, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

This slide-illustrated lecture will concentrate on the current status of selected plants, both native and non-native, on the California Islands. A number of sensitive species have been doing very well, but invasive weedy species continue to arrive on the islands. Steve will also discuss recent conservation efforts in Baja California, including the removal of feral rabbits from the San Benito Islands and the status of goat removal and fencing of endemic plant habitats on Guadalupe Island. Plants thought to be extinct on Guadalupe Island, including *Satureja palmeri*, have been rediscovered during recent field studies. *Satureja palmeri* was last collected from the island in 1885. Steve Junak has been a botanist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden for more than 25 years, where he is now the Herbarium Curator. Since the 1970s, he has been leading field trips and documenting plant distributions on the California Islands. Steve is the principal author of *A Flora of Santa Cruz Island*, published in 1995. He has also co-authored floras for four of the Baja California islands.

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

Annual Chapter Meeting

Guest Speaker: Peter Brand, "Calif. Coastal Conservancy & Ventura Co."

5:30 pm, Sunday, October 6, Pavilion Room, Poinsettia Center, Ventura

Join us for the Channel Islands Chapter Annual Meeting and Banquet. Dinner will be catered this year. We will have live music, an art show featuring local landscape artists, an auction, and a short meeting where you will get to vote in the chapter board members, hear about what the various committees have been doing for the past year, and what is planned for next year. Mark your calendars now to attend and send in your reservation. Our Guest speaker, Peter Brand of the Calif. Coastal Conservancy, will talk about what he and the Conservancy have been doing the last few years in Ventura County and what future plans are in the works. Peter has been working tirelessly to acquire and protect property in the County to protect existing natural resources and restored degraded habitats, particularly focusing on coastal and wetland habitats. Thank God for Peter! See Page 7 for RSVP.

"New Age Desert Conservation" - a multimedia extravaganza w/Steve Hartman

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 20, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

While leading a "virtual" fieldtrip across the so. Calif. desert, Steve will discuss conservation issues while showing slides of his favorite desert locales. Find out why CNPS are pulling weeds in "Native Canyon" at Joshua Tree National Park, why rare plants have received so much attention on the Algodones Dunes in Imperial Co., and why desert plant communities have been the focus of intensive sampling over the past decade. Other topics covered include heap-leach gold mining, wildlife guzzlers, OHV use, and wildfires. Learn how CNPS has influenced the major public lands planning efforts now underway. Steve has created a soundtrack of desert bird sounds played in "surround-sound" to recreate the sensation of being in the desert. He has been a CNPS member for nearly 30 years, served on the State Board for over decade, and is a long-time activist of the LA/Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter. Steve served on the Bureau Land Management's Calif. Desert District Advisory Council for 6

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Conservation Front - David Magney

CNPS vs. Coastal Commission

A couple of months ago CNPS filed a lawsuit with the Sierra Club and Wetlands Action Network against the California Coastal Commission, City of Oxnard, and North Shore at Mandalay over the Commission's decision to approve Oxnard's amendment to their Local Coastal Plan (LCP) to allow the North Shore development to be built.

We contend that the Commission violated policies under the Coastal Act designed to protect coastal resources, including coastal dunes, wetlands, and sensitive species habitats. The Commissioners were heavily lobbied by the City politicians and North Shore developers and largely ignored Commission staff and environmental organizations recommendations to protect coastal resources. Staff recommended a 100-foot buffer between sensitive habitats and the development; however, the Commissioners cut that in half after the developer complained. Since CNPS believes that the Commission violated the Coastal Act by voting to allow destruction of sensitive coastal habitats to allow a housing development, we chose to challenge that decision, which could only be challenged through the courts. We have had one settlement meeting with all the parties to the suit; however, no agreements have been reached to date to facilitate settlement of our concerns: violation of Coastal Act policies. Stay tuned. - *David Magney*

Ahmanson Ranch Development

The Ventura County Environmental Report Review Committee (ERRC) has held two hearings and reviewed verbal and written testimony and critiques of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR) for Phase I of the previously (1992) approved Ahmanson Ranch development adjacent to Calabasas in easternmost Ventura County. The DSEIR was supposed to address new concerns regarding impacts to rare species (San Fernando Valley Spineflower [SFVS] and California Red-legged Frog), wetland impacts, and traffic impacts. Rincon Consultants of Ventura were hired by the County to prepare the EIR; however, Rincon was only to evaluate the impacts based on studies performed by the developer's (Washington Mutual Bank) own consultants. The ERRC decided that the DSEIR needed significantly more work to satisfy the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to address the thousands of specific comments they received on the DSEIR. Rincon's budget was increased six-fold in a recommendation by Ventura County Planning Dept. staff to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. It will likely take Rincon a few months to go through all the comments and prepare proper responses (as required by CEQA) and perform the additional analysis requested by the commenters, which included CNPS. The County will then release a Final EIR, which will then need to be reviewed by CNPS and other interested individuals and groups. CNPS's primary concern with the Ahmanson project are the direct and indirect impacts to rare plants (including the San Fernando Valley Spineflower), wetlands, and native plant communities such as Coastal Sage Scrub, Coast Live Oak Woodland, and California Annual Grassland. You can help by review the FEIR when it comes out and telling the Ventura County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors about

your concerns with the project. Get more info from various websites, for and against the project: http://www.bradsherman.com/inthenews_ahmanson.html, www.ahmanson.org, www.ahmansonland.com, www.saveahmanson.org, www.rallyfortheranch.org, www.aspenlinx.com, http://mamba.bio.uci.edu/~pjbryant/global/sen_sem/gotoh297.html) - *David Magney*

Newhall Ranch Development Project

A decision on the massive Newhall Ranch development in the Santa Clara River Valley/on the east-end of the Santa Susana Mountains just east of Ventura County has been delayed again by Los Angeles County. Newhall Land & Farming Company (Newhall) is in trouble! Newhall is being investigated for criminal and civil violations of CESA because they illegally graded areas that had supported the endangered SFVS, which was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered at the Ahmanson Ranch site in 1999 (see rare plant article on Page 3). Around the same time or a little earlier, a specimen showed up for identification at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, but lacking locality data. Where did it come from? The botanist who submitted the specimen for identification isn't telling because her client has forbidden her from doing so. She submitted a specimen for identification to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in 2000 from the "Castaic area", but was prohibited from disclosing the exact location by her client, Newhall. This is a common and routine practice by Newhall, forbidding all their botanists working for them from disclosing any of their survey findings. Was the specimen from the Newhall Ranch? The botanist who found it won't tell because she is forbidden to do so by a confidentiality agreement required by their client. Why would Newhall, or any client, require such a gag? I can think of only one reason, so they can hide the information from the permitting and regulatory agencies during the environmental review process. Of course, this would be fraud, but how would anyone find out?

The EIRs prepared by Newhall on their project NEVER reported the occurrence of SFVS on their project site, even though Newhall admitted it was present on Grapevine Mesa on 6 June 2000 when Mark Subbotin of Newhall faxed a map to Diana Hickson of Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game (CDFG). During their search, under a search warrant, CDFG found numerous "populations" of SFVS on Newhall's development site, specifically on Grapevine and Airport Mesas, many of which had been disturbed by illegal

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Legislative Front - David Magney

Trade Authority and Homeland Security Bills Could Weaken Environmental Laws

Natural Resources Defense Council's LEGISLATIVE WATCH, 8/1/02. "Before leaving for its August recess, Congress advanced trade authority and homeland security bills, both of which could weaken enforcement of environmental and public health laws. The House and Senate completed action on a supplemental spending bill to fund defense and security functions. In addition, a House-Senate conference committee is continuing negotiations to close the gap between House and Senate versions of the energy bill".

Call your Congressman (Gallegley, Strickland, Capps in the Channel Islands Chapter area) and Senators Boxer and Feinstein and tell them not to support legislation, for any reason, that weakens our already weak environmental protection laws.

Legislation to Weaken Fully Protected Species Law Proposed in State Senate

The existing Fully Protected Species law (FPS) may be significantly weakened by legislation proposed by Senator Sheila Kuehl, SB482. The existing law prohibits harm to a number of wildlife and fish species (e.g. Golden Eagle, Unarmored Three-spined Stickleback, White-tailed Kite, Sea Otter), but no plant species. Senator Kuehl, in an attempt to solve a problem for so. Calif. water purveyors, proposed sweeping changes to the FPS law and California Endangered Species Act to allow some take but try to protect the resources, AND allow the Colorado River aqueduct to be modified. CNPS and other conservation organizations found serious problems with the proposed legislation and has opposed this bill. However, due in part to intensive lobbying by CNPS, the bill has been gutted significantly to remove those portions that CNPS was concerned would weaken existing environmental protections. Thank you Legislation Committee, and thank you Senator Kuehl for listening to CNPS's concerns.

Bush's Forest Thinning Proposal

Due to the drought, many forest fires are occurring in the West, and Bush has proposed a solution. Chop down the trees so they can't burn out of control. Since more and more people are building homes in the forests of the West, there is continued threats to this new buildings. Is this the solution? CNPS does not think so. Tell your Congressman and US Senators how you feel about this.

¿Obscure Trivia Questions?

September 2002 Botanical Trivia Question

* What family of plants has the highest number of representatives (taxa) in Ventura County _____ and in Santa Barbara County? _____*

Send your answers to David Magney via email or to P.O. Box 1346, Ojai, CA 93024-1346. Winners and answers will be announced in the next issue of Matilija Copy.

Last issue we had two related botanical history trivia questions: Who was the first botanist to collect one or more specimens of vascular plants from Ventura County and from Santa Barbara County (name and year)? I received a couple of replies; however, no correct answers. The first botanist (excluding Chumash Indians) to collect in Ventura County (according to my records) was **William H. Brewer** who collected *Isomeris arborea* from the Calleguas Ranch on **1 February 1861**. The first botanist to collect in Santa Barbara County was **David Douglas** in **1831**; however, there is the possibility that Archibald Menzies collected specimens while visiting Santa Barbara in 1793, but I have no records of such collections.

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Program efforts. Information about the event will be posted on the State website, or you can contact me, Patt McDaniel, Sue Mills, or David Magney if you would like to be placed on the email list for upcoming training opportunities – our email and telephone contact information are on the last page of the newsletter.

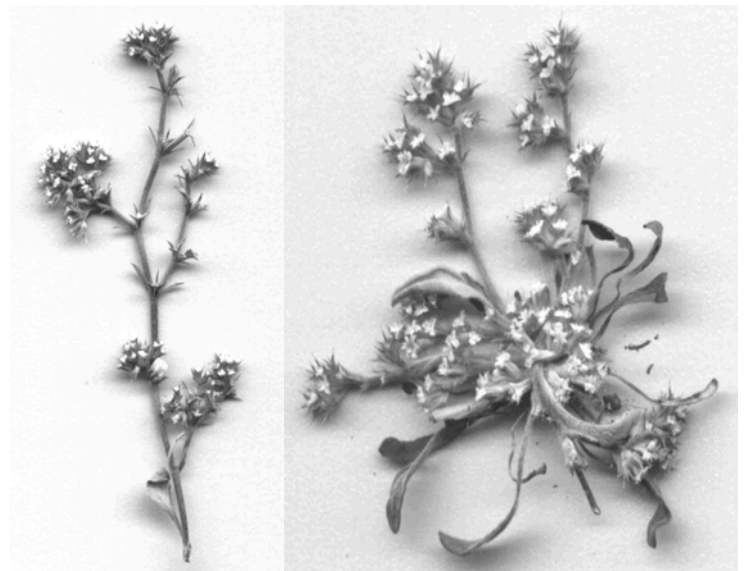
There are some new and/or ongoing Chapter "events" you should find of interest:

1. The Reinke (Castor Bean) conservation and restoration project that, last year, included removal of invasive exotics and, this year, will include the onsite restoration planting portion of the project, that the Chapter has undertaken as a fundraiser – watch for work parties in the next newsletter;
2. Our Chapter's new listing of the Ventura County "Checklist of

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Featured Rare Plant

San Fernando Valley Spineflower (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*) is a small member of the Buckwheat Family (Polygonaceae). SFVS was first described by Serrana Watson in 1880, who named it *Chorizanthe fernandina*, from a collection made in from the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County. It has also been collected from near Santa Ana in Orange County in 1902, and several other L.A. Co. sites. SFVS is an annual herb 2-30 cm across listed as Endangered under the CA Endangered Species Act, is a Federal candidate for Endangered, and on CNPS's List 1B. It occurs in grassland/open scrub habitat on flats and S-facing slopes in sandy places; California Annual Grassland, Coastal Sage Scrub; and ranged from 150-1,220m elevation. SFVS blooms between April and June. The type locality (place from which it was originally described taxonomically): "San Fernando Canyon, Los Angeles County", collected by someone named Bush in June 1879. SFVS was last seen in the wild in 1929, and had been presumed to be extinct; however, it was rediscovered in 1999 by Rick Reifner at a previously unknown location



Black & White scans of San Fernando Valley Spineflower, collected by Mary Meyer, botanist with California Department of Fish & Game, from Laskey Mesa

on Laskey Mesa, on the Ahmanson Ranch development site in the SE corner of Ventura County, immediately N of Calabasas. It has also been found in about 20 sites on the Newhall Ranch development site (by CDFG under a search warrant) west of Valencia and S of State Route 126 in western Los Angeles County, even though Newhall claimed in their development EIR in 2001 that it was not present. - David Magney



The Internet and CNPS

Be sure to visit the CNPS website regularly. It has lots of interesting things of interest to CNPS members. The website is www.cnps.org. Also, the Channels Islands Chapter is initiating its own website. Our web domain name will be www.cnpsci.org. Visit it and see what is going on locally between newsletters, which can be a lot. A lot of stuff comes up quickly, and it may be too late to include them in our next newsletter since the timing is off for timely publication in the Matilija Copy.

Upcoming Conferences

CNPS State Board and Chapter Council Meeting 6-8 September 2002 Red Bluff Discovery Camp

CNPS will be having its September Chapter Council Meeting and Conservation Conference in Red Bluff this year, hosted by the Shasta Chapter, starting Friday the 6th and winding up on noon Sunday the 8th. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. An abridged schedule is provided below.

Friday, September 6th

11:00 am—Sacramento River Raft Trip

3:00 pm—Sacramento River riparian hike or visit McMahon's native plant garden

6:30 pm—Supper w/short slide show

7:30 pm—Board Meeting or Chapter Representatives meet: membership, finance

Saturday, September 7th

8:30 am—Council Meeting

12:00 pm—Lunch-Program "Natural History of the Sacramento River"

1:30 pm—Council Meeting

6:30 pm—Dinner Banquet-Programs "Plants of the Shasta Region" & "Native Grasses" followed by a campfire at 9:30 pm

Sunday, September 8th

8:00 am—Leave for field trips: Dye Creek Preserve or Sacramento River Trail in Redding or Turtle Bay Museum in Redding

12:00 pm—meeting ends

Call Dave DuBose 530/365-8403 to reserve meals and register for rafting trip. Call the CNPS office to obtain meal registration form at 916/447-CNPS. There is free camping and RV parking at the camp. Hotels are available in town.

Directions: Take I-5 to Red Bluff (that is way north of here and 150 miles N of Sacramento) and take the Central exit, R on Antelope Blvd to Sale Lane, S on Sale Lane for about 2.2 miles, following signs to the Red Bluff Discovery Camp. All members are welcome. Hope to see you there!

2002 Wetlands Recovery Project Symposium October 16-18, Holiday Inn, Ventura

The WRP Symposium provides a forum for government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and individuals working on wetlands and watershed projects in Southern California to share their successes and challenges, get info from experts on critical issues, and learn how the WRP can help with your efforts. Numerous interesting sessions are planned. Get more information about the Wetlands Recovery Project and the Ventura symposium from their website: <http://www.coastalconservancy.ca.gov/scwrp>. See you there!

So. Calif. Botanists Symposium - 19 October 2002 Rare Plants of Southern California

Ruby Gerontology Center of Cal State Fullerton

The 28th annual Southern California Botanists Symposium will feature five papers on the rare plants of Southern California. The SCB symposium is jointly sponsored by the CNPS and the Biology Dept. of Cal State University, Fullerton, and will be held from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm on Saturday at the Ruby Gerontology Center, California State University, Fullerton (get the details, registration form, map, etc., from the SBC website (<http://www.socalbot.org>)). Pre-registration by mail before October 15th is \$35.00; registration at the door (starting at 8:00 am) is \$45.00. The symposium fee includes a 1-year membership in

SCB (2002 year for new members, 2003 year for current members). With that you will receive 6 issues of Leaflets and 2 issues of *Crossosoma*. Talks to be given include:

- *Rare Plants in Southern California* by Prof. Robert F. Thorne
- *The Floristics of Clay Soil Habitats in Western Riverside County* by Steve Boyd
- *Botanical Exploration in Southern California Continues to Yield New (and usually Rare) Species* by Mark A. Elvin and Andrew C. Sanders
- *Rare Plants of Ventura County* by David L. Magney
- **Panel Discussion** with Kate Kramer, CDFG, USFWS, CNPS

2002 CalEPPC Symposium—October 11-13, 2002 Sacramento Inn, Sacramento, California

Attend the California chapter of the Exotic Pest Plant Council's symposium focusing on those plants that are most detrimental to the California native flora. Go to CalEPPC's website to obtain more information. www.caleppc.org/symposia/symposium/02/symposium2002

Creating Funding Partnerships for Native Plant Projects Sunday, 20 October, Sausal Creek Field Trip 10:00 – 3:00 Monday, 21 October, Conference 9:00 – 5:30

The field trip and conference will take place in Oakland

Have you ever wished you had more help carrying out native plant protection and restoration projects? Would you like a paid staff member to take on some tasks? Want to find out how you can find funds to support activities that will educate about, protect, and restore native plant communities? If so, this is the conference for you! Speakers include:

- *Malcolm Margolin*, Heyday Press: Dancing on the Brink of the World: What the Bay Area Was Like Prior to the Arrival of Europeans
- *Michael Thilgen*, Four Dimensions Landscaping, and Lesley Estes, City of Oakland: The Restoration of Sausal Creek, the Development of a Native Plant Demonstration Garden and the Creation of a Locally Appropriate Native Plant Nursery: A Partnership Between a Stormwater Program, a Municipality, and a Community Group
- *Chris Dundon*, Contra Costa Water District: Partnering With Water Districts on Native Plant Activities: Projects They Might Fund, and How You Can Get Connected.



Among others, breakout session discussions will include discussions on Nursery/Landscaping Activities, and Encouraging and Increasing the Use of Natives in Home Gardens.

Sunday, October 20—Sausal Creek Restoration Project Field Trip: Michael Thilgen, Four Dimensions Landscaping 10:00 – 3:00 Tour a 15,000-sq-ft demonstration garden with more than 80 species of plants native to California, then walk up the creek to see a 2.2-acre creek restoration project. (See www.sausalcreek.org for more info on the project.) Conference registration fee: \$20 (includes refreshments, lunch, and a wine & cheese). The field trip is \$10. Attendance is limited to 80 at the conference and 30 on the field trip. Register early! Make check out to CNPS and send with a SASE (or email address) to: Kathy Kramer, CNPS Education Coordinator, 1718 Hillcrest Road, San Pablo CA 94806. Questions? Call 510/236-9558 between 9 and 9, or email Kathy@KKramerConsulting.net. Please note if you would like table space to display fliers, books, or other materials.

Professional Botanist Front

This column is being established to discuss issues related to the professional botanist. Nearly all professional botanists (or related field of expertise) in California are members of CNPS; however, no vehicle for exchange of ideas, concerns with the profession, or exciting or interesting news about projects they may be working on exists, until now that is.

The work of the professional botanist is of great importance to CNPS, especially in the area of conservation. Professional botanists are the individuals that perform the field surveys, assess impacts, and make recommendations for mitigation of impacts for hundreds, thousands, of projects in California that may affect the native flora. Those surveys of the flora and recommendations to avoid, minimize, or mitigate (or not) for the impacts a project may have on the flora are of extreme importance to CNPS since that is basically the primary means by which the flora will be conserved, or not conserved.

Unlike many professions (geologists, archaeologists, landscape architects, arborists, foresters, civil engineers, wildlife biologists, ecologists, etc.), botanists are not certified, registered, or licensed to do their work. Should they be? That is the question that is being seriously considered within CNPS right now.

CNPS is considering a professional botanist certification program. The goals and objectives of the program would be to provide a measure for others to gauge the competency of the person doing professional botanical work, provide training and education, establish professional code of conduct ethics, establish minimum standards for performing certain work, provide peer review and discipline (if necessary), provide a means to recognize the professionals, a means to network with other professional botanists, and make available other relevant benefits that individuals or small companies cannot otherwise easily obtain for the botanical professional.

Certification of botanists will also empower the professional botanist to do high quality work and raise the level of respect other professionals will have for the botanist.

Is certification of botanists really needed? I believe so. A decade ago, while serving as President for CNPS, I actively opposed licensing of botanists, believing there was no need. However, after reviewing the work of botanists in numerous EIRs and related documents, it is apparent to me, and other professionals, that the profession is suffering greatly from the lack of ethics, expertise, experience, training, or combination of these by some consultants. Many professional botanists that work for larger, or less-than-ethical/greedy, firms have little or no control over their work. Many of these people become frustrated or resigned to the position they are in and feel powerless to stand up for what is right and ethical, at the risk of losing their jobs. A certification program will help minimize this situation. In time, the professional botanist will have more power over the outcome of their work. Project managers will not be able to override the botanist's conclusions. Better decisions will be made by managers and politicians because they are presented with the facts, not some strange tale made up to "satisfy" the client regardless of the truth.

Come to the next CNPS Chapter Council meeting in Red Bluff on 7 September 2002 to participate in a discussion and consideration of a certification program, or send me your thoughts on this topic. - *David Magney*

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Ventura County Rare Plant Species" is posted on the State website, and is waiting for final legal review before being printed and distributed to local planning agencies, special districts, LAFCO, as well as State and Federal agencies so they will have this information to take into consideration when considering projects and preparing their respective environmental review documents.

3. Thanks to Cathy Schwemm who developed the Chapter website [cnpsci.org], to Paul VanZuyle, friend of CICONPS, who has arranged for the site hosting; to Carlin Moyer, native plant illustrator, for getting our Chapter website together; Cathy is also working with Carol Witham, the State CNPS webmaster to ensure the links between the state and our site are in place.
4. The effort to convert both Ventura and Santa Barbara County local plant listings, including the species of local concern, to geo-database format to provide locations, pictures, data tables, and other information about our native plant populations in a geo-spatial database format, is progressing. Steve Junak and Dieter Wilken are working on Santa Barbara County, and a CNPS member working with the CalFlora Project is working on the Ventura County data. We hope to make this information available on our Chapter website once the conversion is complete; again, if any of you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact either David Magney or me;
5. The Chapter is in need of additional active members to work on several projects, including Secretary, Plant Science/Vegetation Program, working with our Education and Horticulture Program Chairs and supporting the Plant Sales - please contact the people currently working in these areas if you are interested in supporting these Chapter outreach activities [contact information listed on the last page]. Please also let any of us if there is a specific area you would like to support; and
6. **Congratulations to Esteban Solis**, a GIS Technician who is working on our Forestry review/response efforts - Esteban, who is very interested in sustainability and conservation related issues, is attending the International Sustainability Conference in South Africa [he left August 17th and will return after September 6th] on his own time and at his own expense; he is interested in sharing his experiences with us after he returns.

Again - hope you all had some relaxing summer time and are now ready to get back to our native plant projects. - *Lynne Kada*

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).

Investing in Environment Pays Off at 100 to 1

University of Vermont press release, 8/9/02. Investing in environment pays off at 100-1, says paper published in *Science* this week 'Ecological economics' provides truer picture of global balance sheet than the market economy, co-authors say. Shell-shocked investors bouncing between stocks, bonds, and real estate are putting their money in all the wrong places, according to a paper published in *Science* magazine this week. The best deal going, by a wide margin, is the environment. An annual investment of \$45 billion in preserving large tracts of wild nature, say the paper's authors, would yield an annual return to society of between \$44 and \$52 trillion in "ecosystem services" like water filtration and climate regulation, a 100-1 ROI. Source: <http://www.aswm.org/br-news.htm>

Review of Past Events

Bear Canyon/Deal Trail Foray—led by David Magney

David Magney led a botany foray up the Deal Trail starting in Bear Canyon on June 8th. Three CNPS members joined in the hike/botany foray, Jerry Revard of Oak View and Art and Judy Vander of Ojai. It was a hot day, but shade provided by Bigcone Spruce-Canyon Live Oak Forests helped keep us reasonably comfortable. A number of plants were added to my checklist for the trail created last year.

Of particular note was the presence of Silver Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*), a large shrub in the Oleaster family. Two shrubs were found, one in each of Bear and Deal Canyons. The only other known occurrence in Ventura County was from the Ozena Valley in the bed of the Cuyama River. Art and Judy turned back near the head of Bear Canyon while Jerry and I pressed on into Deal Canyon in the next watershed. We hiked a total of 9 miles that day, and our knees let us know too! We added 23 species of plants in Bear Canyon and found 77 taxa in Deal Canyon, areas and rarely botanized part of Ventura Co.



Pine Mountain/Boulder Cyn. Foray - led by David Magney

On 29 June, 11 CNPS members attended this hike down the north face of Pine Mountain. It started at 6,600 ft. in Yellow Pine Forest, slowly heading down, dominated by Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), Ponderosa Pine (*P. ponderosa*), Sugar Pine (*P. lambertiana*), and White Fir (*Abies concolor*), and scattered Incense-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*). CNPS members Richard Bradley, Jim Dale, Wendy Varian, Steve Ramseyer, Carlin Moyer, Nancy Breslin, Dewey Schorre, Jerry Revard, Jae Olson, Sue Mills, and Rita DePuydt attended. We had lunch at McGuire Springs where we met E.R. “Jim” Blakley, probably the most knowledgeable person on the history of the Los Padres National Forest, and a prolific collector of plants in his younger days. It was his 73rd birthday. The water from the spring was delicious. From there we dropped down into Pinyon-Juniper Woodland, dominated by Singleleaf Pinyon Pine (*Pinus monophylla*), California Juniper (*Juniperus californica*), as we neared Ozena and the Cuyama Bad-

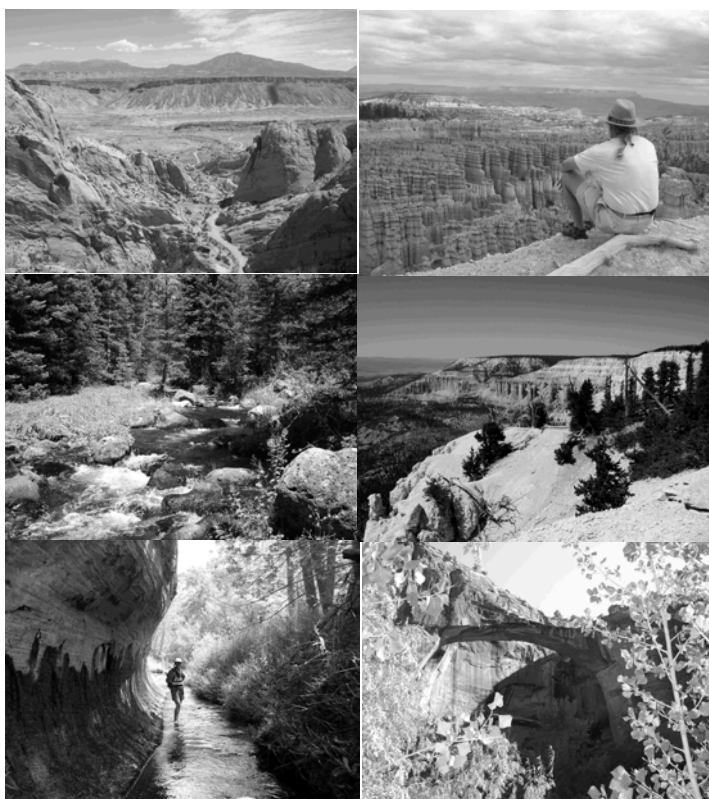


lands region. We passed through forests of Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) and Bigberry Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glauca*), which was the largest extent of both I have seen in Ventura County, or anywhere else in California. We saw 115 taxa and added 31 taxa to my checklist of plants for Pine Mountain Ridge, many of which were expected, but not documented. Interesting plants observed included: lilies

Calochortus invenustus and *Fritillaria pinetorum*; native grasses *Bromus carinatus*, *B. orcuttianus*, and *Poa secunda*, *Leymus triticoides*; phloxes *Collomia tinctoria* and *Linanthus ciliatus*, and lots of other interesting plants. A good botanical foray!

Escalante National Mon., Utah Trip, led by David Magney

Our trip to southern Utah was great. Nancy Breslin of Malibu and Karin and Boyd Dron of Ojai joined me for exploration and botanizing in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Dixie National Forest, not to mention Bryce Canyon and Cedar Breaks National Parks. On the 10th, instead of climbing down into Death Hollow, we explored the Escalante Mountains, including the southernmost point, Powell Point, which is dominated by Engelmann Spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus longaeva*), and Western Juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) - the same low juniper bush planted in your yard. The views were spectacular, even though there was some haze. From Powell Point we drove to the Aquarius Plateau and Boulder Mountain and onto Hells Backbone Road (at the head of Death Hollow) and returned to Boulder, Utah. Along the way we saw a Black Bear, numerous deer, an elk, wild turkeys, grouse, and chipmunks, among other things. The wildflowers were few due to the drought, but the scenery made up for it. We also hiked to Escalante Natural Bridge on the Escalante River, explored the Henry Mtns. (the last mountains in the continental U.S. to be explored by white man), hiked along Boulder Creek on Boulder Mountain, and hiked and swam in Calf Creek can-



yon. See the photos above for views of these some of these areas.

Matilija Creek Trip - led by Jim Edmondson of CalTrout

About 30 people showed up for this informative event to Matilija Dam and Canyon on 10 August. Jim explained the ecology and habitat needs of the Southern Steelhead Trout and what could, and needs to be done in the Ventura River system to restore this great

(Continued on page 8)

California Native Plant Society - Channel Islands Chapter ANNUAL DINNER & MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, October 6

Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road
Ventura, California

Social Hour 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Program 7.30 to 9:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Peter Brand, Art Show, & Live Music



Annual Dinner R.S.V.P. Form

Name: _____ Phone _____

Number of people in your party: Adults _____ Children _____

Cost of Catered Dinner = \$14.00 per person/Children under 12 = \$7.00

Amount Enclosed: _____ (please make checks payable to California Native Plant Society)

Meal includes full salad bar, complete dinner, beverages, and dessert.

Do you prefer a: Vegetarian Entree * Non-vegetarian Entrée (circle one or indicate quantity)

Reservations Required * Please RSVP by September 20, 2002

(Conservation Front Continued from page 2)

grading activities, in direct violation of the CESA and CEQA. Newhall was cited by Los Angeles County for the illegal grading, and forbid CDFG from inspecting the population Newhall had previously reported occurring on Grapevine Mesa. Why? Newhall has a long history of violating environmental laws, and getting away with it because the state and federal agencies are understaffed, their consultants are gagged, and Newhall contributes handsomely to local, regional, and statewide politicians. Is that right? Absolutely not! CNPS hopes that all the environmental crimes committed by Newhall will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and that all damaged biological resources are properly restored. Otherwise, why have the laws at all. Get more info off the internet from the following sites: <http://www.scope.org/nlf/>, <http://www.fscr.org/html/newhall.html>, <http://caag.state.ca.us/newsalerts/1999/99-080.htm>, <http://www.valencia.com/ranch/index.asp>, <http://www.soarusa.org/newhallranch.html>. - David Magney

Live Oak Forest Destroyed Illegally in Ojai Valley

On August 6 the Ventura County Board of Supervisors found William Kaddis "responsible" for the largest violation of the

Protected Tree Ordinance in Ventura County's history. Kaddis was found responsible for the destruction of 301 Coast Live Oak



(*Quercus agrifolia*) trees on 20 acres south of Baldwin Road/SR150 in the Ojai Valley. In addition to violating the tree ordinance, Kaddis violated biological deed restrictions that had been placed on the property when the site was originally subdivided in 2000. The

clear-cutting of the mature woodland and associated native grasslands also resulted in violations of the Ventura County

(Continued on page 8)

(Upcoming Programs Continued from page 1)

years representing CNPS. His local project is the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, in the San Fernando Valley, where he has guided re-vegetation projects and the largest native landscaping project implemented by the City of LA. Steve is a business exec. and multimedia artist, combining his talents to produce the "Nature Based Multimedia Information" series of wildflower CD-ROMs offered for sale in the CNPS catalog.

Horticulture/Education Front

The Pierpont Nature Trail – by Chris Bysshe

Pierpont Elementary School's motto is "Imagine... then make a difference." And that is exactly what Principal Lee Warner did in 1999. He took an area of the campus that had previously been an unutilized eyesore and with help of students, staff, local organizations, and volunteers from the community created the Pierpont Nature Trail.

Nestled between the coastal dunes and Pierpont Boulevard in Ventura, this trail takes you on imaginary hike through Ventura County from the Channel Islands to the top of the Topa Topa Mountains. One encounters eight different plant communities along the way which include: a representation of the Channel Island's, coastal strand, freshwater marsh, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, southern oak woodland, riparian woodland, and cliffside communities. Volunteers from Ventura High School painted a beautiful 80-foot mural on the wall adjacent to the trail. The mural reflects the beauty of the eight different habitats represented in the landscaped area of the Nature Trail and is truly an incredible work of art.

The Nature trail is a work in progress. For example, we need to reposition some of the creative planting combinations of the original planting volunteers, like the Ironwood in the oak woodland and the *Juncus* next to the *Yucca* in the cliffside community. We want to plant different species in each of the various plant communities that were not available during the initial installation process. Additional changes to the Trail include a dry creek bed, more rock and topography in the landscape, especially in the cliffside community, as well as creating informational plaques that describe each community.

We are very excited about our new curriculum guides developed by local CNPS member and volunteer (as well as new mother) Heather King. The curriculum guides focus on fun interactive activities associated with the Nature Trail to enrich the learning experience for the both the students and staff.

Patt McDaniel is helping to spearhead the next Nature Trail project, The Pierpont Native Plant Propagation Center. We plan to propagate native plants from the watersheds of Ventura County for both the Nature Trail and the community. We are still in the early stages of developing this small, but ambitious site-specific native nursery, so we really need your help. Included below is a wish list. If you could assist in the acquisition of materials, or would like to volunteer your skills please email Chris Bysshe at cbysshe@yahoo.com.

The Pierpont Nature Trail has been a collaboration of many groups of volunteers devoting hours of time and effort to create a science learning area and an esthetic location for the children and the community. We invite you down to enjoy and participate in this unique educational experience. WISH LIST:

- Hard to find Ventura County plant species, as well as more common species that were not available during the initial installation



- (for a list of desired plants please email Chris)
- Large rocks and boulders
- Lumber for building propagation benches and tables
- A small greenhouse or materials to build one
- Flats, 4-inch and one-gallon pots, as well as other types of potting materials
- Plant propagation equipment and tools
- Irrigation equipment, especially a misting system for watering seedlings
- Weed mat fabric
- Pea gravel
- Horticultural sand
- Large plastic trash cans
- Volunteers to help build propagation benches, tables, and greenhouse
- Volunteers to help collect and propagate plant materials
- Or something you think that might be very useful not listed above.



Native Plant Seeds Needed

The Chapter is interested in obtaining seeds of native plants from the Santa Barbara and Ventura County area for our Pierpont School Propagation Area and the Pierpont Beach-to-Topatopa Nature Talk, our school gardens wildflowers propagation project, and our plant sale propagation project. We are specifically looking for seeds with a known local natural origin for horticultural and restoration purposes. We are also interested in plants for vegetative propagation. Please collect seeds when you are out and about and send them in. Just drop a piece of paper with notes about what and where you collected, and the date, so that we can keep track of where the plants originated from when we grow them out. Contact Patt McDaniel for more information, or to let her know you have some seeds collected. - *Patt McDaniel*

(Review of Past Events Continued from page 6)

fishery. The Steelhead is an endangered species. The Matilija Dam is being studied for removal, which could restore 7 miles of creek to the Steelhead, and provide sand to the beaches. Giant Reed removal would also improve conditions.

(Conservation Front Continued from page 7)

Grading Ordinance and Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance of the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD). The Public Works Agency and the RCD are also pursuing enforcement actions for these violations. Although technical violations may have also occurred of the regulations of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and CDFG, these agencies decided not to prosecute. The basis for the County case rests largely on pre-destruction and post-destruction tree surveys done by arborist Paul Rogers. Paul found that 109, 230 square inches of cumulative cross-sectional area of trees had been destroyed with an appraised value of \$941,948. The Protected Tree Ordinance lists a range of possible mitigation measures for such violations. In this case, the high end would be to plant the same number of square inches of trees as were lost, and maintain them for five years – just buying the nursery stock and planting them would cost approximately \$3,000,000, not counting the cost of the land and the five years of maintenance. The low end of the mitigation measures would be to purchase a 20-acre oak woodland and ensure that it would remain permanently in open space through donation to a conservation organization, or deed restrictions, etc. This is assumed to cost perhaps \$300-350,000. Mr. Kaddis has now filed several lawsuits against the County, and the Ventura County District Attorney and County Counsel are evaluating the case to see what if any suits they may file. CNPS will monitor this case as it progresses. - *Scott Ellison*

September 6-8, Friday-Sunday - CNPS State Board & Council Chapter Meetings, in Red Bluff. Details on Page 4.

September 11, Wednesday (7 pm) - CI Chapter Board of Directors Meeting, 914 S. Ayers Ct., Ojai. Contact David Magney for directions.

September 12, Thursday (2-4 pm) - Ventura County Wetlands Recovery Project Task Force Meeting. Ventura County Multi-purpose room (2nd floor).

September 14, Saturday (5-9 pm) - Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's "Moonlight on the Meadow" 16th Anniversary Event. Hors d' Oeuvres, dinner, silent & live auctions, live bluegrass music by the Iron Mountain Boys. \$60/person. Call 646-0251 for more information. This is a great event at the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

September 18, Wednesday (7:30 pm) - CI Chapter Program: "Plant News from the California Islands" by Steve Junak, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. See Page 1 for details.



September 28, Saturday (9:30 am) - Hike/Tour of Hedrick Ranch Nature Area. Join Gretchen Coffman for a tour of the Nature Area (formerly a portion of Valley View Ranch) on the Santa Clara River. Gretchen is the Project Manager for the Management and Restoration Plan for this Friends of the Santa Clara River preserve. Many interesting native plants are to be seen, including Yerba Mansa (*Anemopsis californica*). There will be some driving and walking, about 2 hours. Bring a lunch if you want to eat at the river. **Directions:** Take 126 to Santa Paula, get off on 10th St. (Highway 150). Turn Right on Harvard (first stoplight), go 2 blocks to 12th St., turn Right & cross the 12th-St. bridge over the Santa Clara River. Continue on South Mountain Rd. for approx. 3 miles, to the main Valley View Ranch entrance at 20089 South Mountain Rd. Do NOT enter here, instead proceed down the main road for another 0.3 mile to a dirt road on the left, enter through a green metal gate, continue through the citrus orchard and row crop areas for about 1/2 mile until the road ends at a crossroad. Turn Right and go up a small hill and over a short bridge to the open-air "Arundo Pavilion" on the right & a parking area on the left, across from the Pavilion. Call Rita DePuydt at 640-3700 or Ron Bottorff at 498-4323 for more information.

October 6, Sunday (5:30-9 pm) - Channel Islands Chapter Annual Meeting & Dinner, Poinsettia Pavilion, Ventura. See Page 1 announcement and Page 7 for details and reservation form. RSVP required for dinner.

October 10, Thursday (2-4 pm) - Ventura County Wetlands Recovery Project Task Force Meeting. Ventura County Multi-purpose room (2nd floor). CNPS is a member of the Task Force.

October 11-13, 2002 - CalEPPC Symposium at Sacramento Inn, Sacramento. Get detailed info at www.caleppc.org/symposia/symposium/02/symposium2002.

October 17-18, Thursday-Friday - Wetlands Recovery Project Symposium in Ventura. See Page 4 for details.

October 19, Saturday - Southern California Botanists Symposium, Cal State Fullerton. David Magney will give a presentation on Ventura County rare plants. See details on Page 4.

October 26, Saturday (9:00 am) - Fall Plant Walk at La Purisima Mission and Burton Mesa Chaparral, near Lompoc in Santa Barbara County; Leader Charlie Blair. Meet at E-end of Burton Mesa Blvd. in Mission Hills. From the N, take Constellation Rd. offramp from SR1, R on Burton Mesa Blvd. From the S, Burton Mesa Blvd. can be accessed from either Harris Grade Rd. or Rucker Rd.; again turn R. Call Charlie Blair 733-3189 for details.

November 2, Saturday (9:00 am) - Fall Color Hike Sisar Canyon. Join botanist **Rick Burgess** for a pleasant, leisurely stroll up Sisar Canyon on what has become a favorite hike. Sisar Canyon, located in the foothills of the Topatopa Mountains, is fed by a perennial stream that supports a healthy riparian woodland. If we've timed it right, we should see some good fall color. Rick promises to find at least 10 species of plants in bloom. Bring lunch, water, and hiking shoes. Hike will end after lunch. Meet at the corner of Sisar Road and Hwy 150 in Summit, Upper Ojai. Phone Rick at 983-1312 if you need further directions.

November 9, Saturday (9 am-2 pm) - CI Chapter Fall Native Plant Sale, Plaza Park, Ventura.

November 10, Sunday - CNPS Vegetation Sampling/Classification Workshop. CNPS vegetation ecologist, Julie Evens, will lead a workshop, in the field, on how to classify, sample, and measure natural plant communities. Free to CNPS members. Call Lynne Kada for more information.

November 16, Saturday (9 am-2 pm) - Castor Bean Pulling Party. Come help pull out invasive exotic Castor Bean plants at the Reinke site. Rancho Rd. exit off US101 in Thousand Oaks, S to Rolling Oaks Dr. & down the hill to the BIG oak tree. Lunch & drinks provided. RSVP to David Magney.

November 20, Wednesday (7:30 p.m.), CI Chapter Program: "New Age Desert Conservation" a multimedia extravaganza by Steve Hartman, at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. See Page 1 for details.

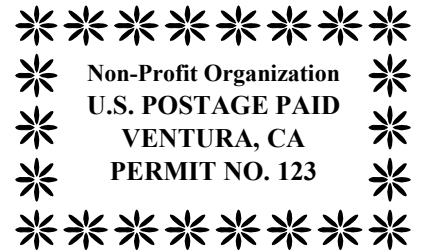


California Native Plant Society

Channel Islands Chapter

P.O. Box 5628

Ventura, CA 93005



Next Newsletter submittal deadline is 15 October 2002 for the Nov-Jan issue

- 6-8 Sept - CNPS State Board Meeting
- 11 Sept - Channel Islands BODs Meeting
- 18 Sept - Program "Plant News from the California Islands" by Steve Junak.
- 28 Sept - Hike/tour of Hedrick Ranch Nature Area
- 6 Oct - Chapter Annual Meeting/Dinner
- 26 Oct - Burton Mesa Chaparral Walk
- 2 Nov - Sisar Canyon Hike
- 9 Nov - Fall Native Plant Sale
- 10 Nov - Vegetation Sampling Workshop
- 16 Nov - Castor Bean Pulling Party
- 20 Nov - Program "New Age Desert Conservation: by Steve Hartman"

TIME VALUE MATERIAL



Officers of the Channel Islands Chapter

Office/Position	Name	Phone #	Email Address
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Vice President:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
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Rare Plant Coord. (V):	Rick Burgess	983-1312	
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Invasive Exotics:	Kirk Waln	650-9845	kkwaln@earthlink.net
Programs:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Program Facilitator (SB):	Barbara Farnsworth	684-1516	farnsworth@cwo.com
Program Facilitator (V):	Richard Bradley	646-6633	
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Field Trips:	Rita DePuydt (interim)	640-3700	suncoast@west.net
Plant Sales:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Poster Sales:	Scott Brown		sbrown5534@aol.com
Member-At-Large	Tom Kaufman	643-4842	
Member-At-Large	Kirk Waln	650-9845	kkwaln@earthlink.net
Member-At-Large	Rita DePuydt	640-3700	suncoast@west.net

(All telephone numbers are in Area Code 805)

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
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (one-time payment)	\$1,000

I wish to affiliate with the Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Send Membership application and check to:
California Native Plant Society or CNPS
1722 J Street, Suite 17
Sacramento, CA 95814

Note: We send two free Matilija Copy issues to non-members who wish to become acquainted with CNPS. You may subscribe to Matilija Copy for one year with a \$5-donation to the chapter. Call Dirk Rodriguez, Treasurer, to subscribe. CNPS/Channel Islands Chapter members automatically receive this newsletter.