

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

Matilija Copy

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Editor: David L. Magney

March-May 2003



President's Message

We have had an interesting, warm first two months this year, with plenty of rain so we should have a spectacular spring for viewing our native plants! The State Chapter Council, which represents all the CNPS Chapters, just held its March meeting. The event highlighted the fact that CNPS is increasingly becoming known as "having something for everyone". How true, there is something for everyone, both our members as well as the public.

Our Chapter and Statewide focus includes presentations, rare plant conservation, ecological restoration, gardening with natives, public outreach, education outreach and in-school activities, and plant hikes, outings and forays. Our Chapter has a great record of outreach, teamwork and camaraderie, something we can all be proud of. SO - Just as CNPS has something for everyone, it is also true that everyone, every member, has something for CNPS, and our Chapter success depends on our members!

Your Chapter Officers therefore invite individuals, botanists, photographers, organizers, families, accountants, database administrators, groups, computer techs, educators, ecologists, communicators, artists, hobby gardeners, writers, restorationists, linguists, hikers, office volunteers, horticulturalists, facilitators, amateurs, professionals, geologists, wildlife biologists, librarians, naturalists, historians, vegetation monitors, star gazers, caterers, musicians, journalists, weeders, philanthropists, carpenters, navigators, policy experts, backpackers, taxonomists, students, seniors, and . . . everyone else to actively participate.

This newsletter carries information about many opportunities for volunteering in many different ways. Please feel free to contact me at lynnkada@yahoo.com or phone 805-643-4842 [or any other chapter representative whose contact information is listed on the last page of this newsletter]. Hope to see you at our upcoming events.

- Lynne Kada

See Page 1 for Directions to the E. P. Foster Library and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS

"Wildflowers and Fire Followers"

Slide Show by Rick Burgess, Environmental Biologist/Botanist
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 16, 2003 Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Join Rick Burgess as we take a botanical ramble across Ventura County from sea level to the highest peaks in search of spring wildflowers. Ventura County is home to approximately 2,000 species of plants, and although you won't see them all tonight, Rick will show you some of his favorites. He will pay particular attention to the many fire-followers that we expect to see as the upper Sespe Creek drainage recovers from last summer's wildfire. Rick is employed by the City of Thousand Oaks as an Environmental Planner, a position he has held for 17 years. Associated with many environmental groups, Rick is past president of the Channel Islands Chapter of CNPS and has been a Director-At-Large of the Statewide organization. He and his wife, Trisha, have been working on a book on the flora of Ventura County for the past 20 years.

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

"Plant Identification Workshop"

David L. Magney, Botanist/Environmental Consultant
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 21, E.P. Foster Library, Ventura

If you ever wanted to know how to identify a plant, this workshop is for you. David Magney will guide everyone through the process to positively identify a plant, focusing on local native species. He will explain how to use identification keys, explain some terminology (botanists have lots of special terms they like to use to make them sound knowledgeable), and show you some of the tricks on how to tell some common related species apart. David will be assisted by botanists Cher Batchelor and Ken Niessen. Bring a hand lens (or magnifying glass), tweezers and small knife, notebook, and your *Jepson Manual* or *Munz* (or other flora with identification keys), and samples of those darned plants you don't know the names of, and we will key them out. David is completing work on his research on the flora of Ventura County, which he started in earnest in 1978, and authored *A Flora of Dry Lakes Ridge, Ventura County, California* in 1986 and coauthored *"Botanical Resources of Emma Wood State Beach and the Ventura River Estuary, California: Inventory and Management"* in 1990. He has operated his own environmental consulting business since 1997 after working at other firms for about 12 years, including the UCSB Herbarium and US Forest Service.

"We Took Out the Lawn & You Can Too!"

Gabi and Cliff McLean, Authors/Business Administrator/Naturalist/Physicist/Gardeners
7:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Presentation by Gabi and Cliff McLean on their suburban re-landscaping project. They will tell you how they did it, how much work it took, what has been the result, how the neighbors have taken to it, and what it takes to maintain it. We can all benefit from the McLean's experience of planning, preparing, installing, and maintaining their California native garden. Reports are that this is a well-liked program, so you will not want to miss it.

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). Mission Canyon Dr. is North of SR192.

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Conservation Front

CNPS vs. Coastal Commission

The court, in Simi Valley, heard CNPS et al. and the North Shore developer's attorneys arguments in a court hearing on our challenge of the Coastal Commission's decision to ignore Coastal Act policies regarding prohibition of permanent onsite destruction of Environmentally Sensitive Habitats (ESHAs), such as wetlands, at the North Shore development site in Oxnard. The judge will make a decision on our complaint in the next couple of months. If we are successful, the development project that would impact the Ventura Marsh Milkvetch and coastal habitats at the northeast corner of Fifth St. and Harbor Blvd. in Oxnard will be stopped. *David Magney*

Ahmanson Ranch Development

CNPS and several other environmental organizations filed a lawsuit against the County of Ventura and Ahmanson Land Company/Washington Mutual Bank in late January 2003 over the inadequacy of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) Rincon Consultants (of Ventura) prepared for the large mixed development near Calabasas in eastern Ventura County. CNPS contends that the SEIR failed to adequately identify and assess project-related impacts to a large number of rare vascular plants (including the San Fernando Valley Spineflower), lichens, mosses and liverworts (bryophytes), wetlands, and native plant communities; nor did the SEIR provide adequate or feasible mitigation measures to compensate for the impacts to botanical resources onsite. In early March, the County and developer refused to settle the suit in a mandatory settlement meeting, so our arguments will now be heard before a judge in a few months. Be sure to visit the chapter website (<http://www.cnpsci.org/html/Conservation/Ahmanson%20Ranch%20Development.htm>) for more information, and how you can help on this project.

Newhall Ranch Development

CNPS reviewed the Revised Draft Additional Analysis (Los Angeles County Project Number 94-087) CEQA document and found it to be lacking/inadequate. The proposed project will consist of over 21,000 dwelling units, commercial and business uses, and lots of infrastructure (roads, pipelines, bridges, etc.) at the southeast "corner" of I-5 and SR126 (W of Magic Mountain) on the eastern end of the Santa Susana Mountains and along the Santa Clara River. If the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors certify the EIR and approve the project during its 25 March hearing, CNPS will consider filing a CEQA lawsuit over the inadequacy of the impact assessment document. The new city will have tremendous impacts to the natural environment, including to the San Fernando Valley Spineflower and many other special-status plant species. Newhall has prevented its biological consultants from disclosing any information on the biological resources that could be impacted, except that what the developer specifically authorizes to be disclosed. Visit the chapter website (http://www.cnpsci.org/html/Conservation/Newhall_Ranch.htm) "Issues" web page for the history and downloadable copies of CNPS comment letters of previous CEQA documents for this project.

David Magney, Conservation

Horticulture

Spring Plant Sale: The Chapter Spring Plant Sale is scheduled for Saturday April 5th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Plaza Park in Ventura across from the Post Office on Santa Clara Avenue. Set up will start at 7:30 AM. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, sales and closing. Put the date on your calendar and let any of your Chapter Officers know if you will be able to help with this important Chapter event.

Plant Propagation: Please contact Patt McDaniel if you wish to become involved with Chapter's efforts to propagate locally native plant species.

Patt McDaniel, Horticulture

Education

School Gardens: Contact Sue Mills for more information on this Chapter's education outreach program. Also, visit the CNPS website (www.cnps.org) to see what is available from the state CNPS regarding education. There is a lot of great stuff. - *Sue Mills, Education*

Vegetation

I'm Ken Niessen, and I'm the new Vegetation/ Plant Sciences Chair. "Vegetation" overlaps with a range of other categories, like conservation, invasive species, and education, so activities that I'm planning overlap with these and other subjects. I live in Ojai, so it seems like I'm biased toward Ojai area projects, please be tolerant! You can reach me at kgniessen@ojai.net or 805/646-8650.

I've noticed in the last few years a spreading population of French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*) in the Upper North Fork of Matilija Creek, in the Matilija Wilderness, where it is mixed with the locally more widespread Spanish Broom, (*Spartium junceum*). Both plants are aggressive, noxious, and (at least for *Genista*) toxic introduced weeds, and the Forest Service is interested in eradicating them. I've scheduled a broom removal party for Sunday, 4 May. Meet at the Matilija Canyon Trailhead at 9 am, and bring a lunch, water, and gloves. It's less than a mile walk to where the broom is, and the tools will be driven to within half a mile. Please email or call me if you're interested, so we know how many tools to bring.

I'm starting to develop a closer relationship with the Los Padres Forest Association (LPFA), which is involved with trail restoration and maintenance, and you know you often have to walk on trails to get to plants. The LPFA works closely with the Forest Service, which facilitates LPFA activities and provides tools. During the spring the LPFA has an event called Trail Day, focusing on particular trails. I'll be at the Ojai Trail Day, May 3, in Horn Canyon, to answer botanical questions. There is a Trail Day for each of the Los Padres Forest Ranger Districts, check their website (<http://www.lpforest.org/>) or call me for more details. If you like working on trails, the LPFA has longer Working Vacations where you go in the backcountry and camp for a week or so and work on trails.

One way to publicize CNPS and provide an educational service is to develop plant checklists for local trails that get heavily used. I'm going to start with Shelf Road here in Ojai, with an annotated list of two dozen or so common plants, with line drawings. The idea is to distribute the checklists at the trailheads and other likely places (businesses, visitor centers) so that trail users can know what they are seeing, and know that CNPS is involved. If the idea seems like it works, it can be expanded to other trails (Gridley, Foothill, etc) and have web links to photos of the plants.

Finally, I'm starting to follow various development, restoration and conservation issues, I'll be working on the CNPS Vegetation Rapid Assessment program, and I'll be leading field trips. A two-day training program presented by Julie Evens, CNPS Vegetation Ecologist, and David Magney, was held in the Ojai Valley in early November. A follow-up Rapid Assessment day will be scheduled soon based on your interest. We would like to gather additional field data for the Ventura River vegetation mapping that has already been started. So, if you want to contact me about participating in or helping with any of the above projects, please call or email. *Ken Niessen, Vegetation/Plant Science Committee Chairman*

Invasives: The Chapter is looking for one or more volunteers interested in representing CNPS in both Santa Barbara [the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area (WMA) program] and Ventura [the Arundo Task Force as well as efforts to form a State recognized Weed Management Area (WMA) in Ventura County. Ventura County is one of only 4 counties statewide without a WMA. Please check with either Ken Niessen or Kirk Waln for more information. *Kirk Waln – Invasive Exotics Committee Chairman*

FIELD TRIPS, HIKES, FORAYS, AND OTHER EVENTS

This will be a GREAT year for wildflowers with all the rain we have already received this winter and forecasted for this spring. Please join us on one or more of our events. You will enjoy yourself for sure!

29 March 2003, Saturday, 9 am, Botany Foray in Sespe (Wolf Fire) Burn Area. Join botanist David Magney in exploring the burn area of the Sespe Creek watershed to find many fire-following plants rarely seen otherwise. Meet at the Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center at 9 am on State Route 33 (about 10 minutes North of Ojai). A short talk/slide show will precede the foray. This foray will go off the trail into burned chaparral (one of the few times you will be able to walk through chaparral), and you can expect to get charcoal on your cloths. This foray is cosponsored by the Los Padres Forest Association and CNPS. No Adventure Pass required since it is the last Saturday of the month, a free day. Bring lunch, water (2 liters), sturdy hiking shoes/boots, hat, insect repellent, and your hand lens. Contact David Magney at dmagney@aol.com or 805/646-6045.

5 April 2003, Saturday, 9 am – 2:00 pm – Spring Plant Sale. The Annual Spring Plant Sale will be held in Ventura at Plaza Park across from the Post Office on Santa Clara Street. Join members between 7:30–9:00 am to set up for the sale, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm to help with the sale and/or at 2:00 pm to close out the sale. Rain date is one week later.

8 April 2003, Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Channel Islands Chapter Strategic Planning Workshop, Ojai. Join your chapter leaders in determining the direction and activities we will focus on in the coming years by participating in the second part of our developing a strategic plan. We will discuss a wide range of topics to explore, including environmental education, horticulture, conservation, botanical science, natural vegetation, outings and hikes, programs, and other related items. Your participation is desired. Meet at 914 S. Ayers Ct., Ojai (north of Grand Ave. off Park Rd.). Call David Magney for details and/or further directions. Food will be provided.

16 April 2003, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Channel Islands Chapter Program “Wildflowers and Fire Followers” slide show by Rick Burgess, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Rick will show a collection of wildflowers native to the Channel Islands region (Ventura, Santa Barbara, and western Los Angeles Counties), illustrating the diversity and wonders of our native flora. See Upcoming Chapter Programs on Page 1 for more information.

26 April 2003, Saturday, 9 am, Botany Foray in Sespe Burn Area. Join botanist David Magney in exploring another part of the burn area of the Sespe Creek watershed to find many fire-following plants rarely seen otherwise. See 29 March description for details.

4 May 2003, Sunday, 9 am, French Broom Bash, Matilija Canyon. *Genista monspeleana* has infested a part of Upper North Fork Matilija Canyon, and CNPS wants to get rid of it now before it gets out of hand. Meet at the Matilija Canyon Trailhead (end of Matilija Canyon Rd.), and bring a lunch, water, and gloves (gloves will be available). It's less than a mile walk to where the broom is, and the tools will be driven to within half a mile. Please contact Ken Niessen at 805/646-8650 or kgniessen@ojai.net if you're interested, so we know how many tools to bring.

21 May 2003, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, Channel Islands Chapter “Plant Identification Workshop”, E.P. Library, Ventura. David Magney will lead a workshop on how to identify plants, particularly California natives. See Upcoming Chapter Programs on Page 1 for details.

31 May 2003, Saturday, 9 am, Botany Foray in Sespe Burn Area. Join botanist David Magney in exploring another part of the burn area of the Sespe Creek watershed to find many fire-following plants rarely seen otherwise. See 29 March description for details.

7 June 2003, Saturday, 9 am, CNPS Chapter Council Meeting, Lake Tahoe. Join CNPS chapter representatives from around California at our quarterly meeting. Many interesting topics are discussed, covering conservation, plant science, policies, horticulture, education, etc. We always have a very interesting speaker/program in the evening, and field trips to interesting botanical hotspots the following day (Sunday). These are always exciting meetings. Channel Islands Chapter President, Lynne Kada, is the Chapter Council Chair.

14 June 2003, Saturday, 9 am, Pine Mountain/Chorro Grande Trail Hike. Join Ken Niessen on a hike down the Chorro Grande Trail from the top of Pine Mountain to the Sespe Creek, a hike of 5½ miles. We will conduct a car shuttle, leaving most vehicles at the end of the trail so we don't have to hike back up. This area was extensively burned last summer in the Wolf Fire, and there should be fabulous wildflower displays. We'll see, among other things, *Fremontodendron*, *Garrya*, *Ephedra*, and 3 species of *Pinus*. The vegetation at the top is Yellow Pine Forest and Montane Chaparral (dominated by Manzanita), and the lower areas contain Pinyon-Juniper Woodland and Ceanothus Chaparral, with riparian wetlands along the creek. The hike will also traverse the proposed (formerly by U.S. Gypsum in the late 1970s) gypsum/phosphate open-pit mine. Not only will we see many wildflowers and native shrubs, but marine fossils as well. This hike is cosponsored by the Los Padres Forest Association and CNPS. Meet at the Wheeler Gorge Visitors Center at 9 am on State Route 33 (about 10 minutes North of Ojai). An Adventure Pass required. Bring lunch, water (2 liters), sturdy hiking shoes/boots, hat, insect repellent, and your hand lens. Contact Ken at kgniessen@ojai.net or 805/646-8650 for more information.

5 July 2003, Saturday, 9 am, Escalante River and Natural Bridge, Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument, Utah. Join botanist David Magney on a hike up the Escalante River in southern Utah (between Boulder and Escalante, Utah) to the Escalante Natural Bridge. This is an easy hike along the canyon bottom. Tennis shoes are fine, and be prepared to get your feet wet, and the trail crosses the river (very shallow) several times. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and a hat. You won't want to miss seeing the sublime views of this area. The Town of Boulder will have its Second Annual Fourth of July Day Celebration (on the 4th), with lots of local talent and possibly fireworks (depending on environmental conditions). Contact David Magney at dmagney@aol.com for details, directions, or anything else.



¿Obscure Botany Trivia Question?

Spring 2003 Botanical Trivia Question

What family has *Mimulus* recently been assigned to rather than the Crowfoot (Scrophulariaceae) family? (Hint: read your last issue of *Fremontia* for the answer).

Send your answers to David Magney via email dmagney@aol.com or to PO Box 1346, Ojai, CA 93024-1346. Winners and answers will be announced in the next issue of *Matilija Copy*.

The last Botany Trivia Question we had one question: What genus of vascular plants has the highest number of species in Ventura County? No one attempted an answer. The answer is the genus *Lupinus* with 26 species in the Pea family (Fabaceae), with nine more subspecies/varieties, plus a couple that are expected to occur in the County but for which no specimens have been collected as proof.

www.cnpsci.org

Don't forget to visit your chapter website regularly (at least bi-weekly). We try to update it weekly, so keep checking it. The Channel Islands Chapter website includes chapter contacts, membership information, and various articles on: conservation, horticulture, and education issues. The website has a page dedicated to rare plants, including definitions, lists of rare plants from Ventura County, Santa Barbara County, and the Liebre Mountains. There is a page on horticulture, and soon a page on invasive exotics. The website also includes a current listing of programs (both CNPS and by related organizations), hikes, botany forays, workshops, symposia, conferences, and CNPS meetings.

Photographs and drawings of locally native plants are spread throughout the website. The site also includes many excellent links to other interesting and informative websites. Be sure to visit it at least once a month at a minimum.

GOOD BOTANIZING PLACES

Chumash Park, Simi Valley

Chumash Park is a nice open space park at the eastern end of Simi Valley, operated by Rancho Simi Recreation and Parks District (RSRPD). I visited a part of this park at the request of Kim Keppler of RSRPD to identify the tiny fairy shrimp he saw in the rocktop rain pools in the large rock outcrops in the park. A few of the rocktop pools are habitat to Lyndahl's Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lyndahlia*), a common species of fairy shrimp with a wide distribution throughout California. While there I couldn't resist botanizing, and found a number of very interesting native plants, including locally rare species such as: Blow-wives (*Achyraea mollis*), Mountain Dandelion (*Agoseris heterophylla*), Common Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*), Los Angeles Gilia (*Gilia angelensis*), Ground Pink (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*), Heerman Lotus (*Lotus heermanii*), Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), Linear Comb-bur (*Pectocarya linearis*), and White-flowered Currant (*Ribes indecorum*). A list of all the plants I found there can be downloaded from the "Plant Checklists" page at <http://www.cnpsci.org/>. Definitely, visit this nice park this spring. – David Magney

Sulphur Mountain Road

Take a hike or mountain bike along Sulphur Mountain Road (between SR33 and Upper Ojai) for some great vistas and a very good display of wildflowers. Owl's Clover, Indian Paintbrush, Calif. Poppy, Rusty Popcornflower, and Johnny-Jump-Up, to name a few, are blooming here in late March. Visit the website for some photos. – David Magney

Past Trips/Events

Mugu Peak Hike of 22 February 2003

A good group hiked to the top of Mugu Peak with botanist David Magney and saw Padres Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon clevelandii* ssp. *sanctorum*) and Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria biflora*) in full bloom. The weather was great, with scattered clouds in the sky to keep us from getting too hot. *Lomatium lucidum* [a member of the Carrot Family] was found scattered along the trail to the top, not previously reported for the mountain. Ground Pink (*Linanthus dianthiflorus*) was also blooming near the summit. Some photos below. – David Magney



The attendees; *Dodecatheon clevelandii*; *Fritillaria biflora*; *Lomatium lucidum*

Ormond Beach Winter Bird Festival – 8 March 2003

Chapter members were on hand for the 2nd Annual Ormond Beach Winter Bird Festival held on Saturday March 8 at the Lobster Trap Restaurant. This annual festival is the brainchild of Julianna Krolak who has taken it upon herself to bring more attention to this important area. Speakers this year were ornithologist, Walter Wehtje, who spoke on the importance of the Ormond Beach wetlands to birds and our own Rick Burgess who talked about the unique botanical resources of Ormond Beach. It was interesting to note, that while Ormond Beach is within the City of Oxnard, not a single City representative was present, although the Mayor of Port Hueneme were in attendance.

After the talks, participants took field trips to several Ormond Beach locations. Among the avian highlights were a Tropical Kingbird, which is rare on the west coast, and two White-faced Ibis. (David Magney and others saw a pair of Muted Swan near Arnold Rd. on 21 March – the first such sighting at Ormond Beach.) Botanical highlights included Coulter's Goldfields (*Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri*) CNPS List 1B in full bloom and the brilliant yellow blossoms of Giant Coreopsis (*Coreopsis gigantea*). Rick did not have much success in generating enthusiasm for the infinitely forgettable blooms of the chenopods in the salt marsh.

Julianna Krolak deserves a great deal of credit for organizing and coordinating this worthwhile event. Ormond Beach contains regionally significant coastal habitats and several rare and endangered species. Although it has been fragmented and degraded as a result of a number of inappropriate land uses, the recent purchase of 265 acres of former SCE property by the State Coastal Conservancy is a major step forward. There is great potential to bring Ormond Beach back to what it once was. – Rick Burgess



Wildflower Field on Sulphur Mountain, 16 March 2003; See color photos at <http://www.cnpsci.org/>

Fruits of *Marah fabaceus* var. *agrestis* (top right) and *Marah macrocarpus* var. *macrocarpus* (bottom right).

Both of these were found near each other in the Ventura River floodplain in the Ojai Valley.

David Magney



Santa Cruz Island Volunteer Restoration Trips

If you really want to make a difference protecting rare habitat and you enjoy working in unusual and beautiful places, then a volunteer ecological restoration trip to the Channel Islands may be your perfect opportunity. Participants get free boat transportation to Santa Cruz Island and the opportunity to visit a gorgeous nature preserve reminiscent of California's past. The work involves removing non-native plant species in the area of the 19th-century Stanton Ranch in the island's Central Valley, plus trips to the west end of the island for work near the historic Christy Ranch. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about native island plants and the many techniques used to control invasive species that are a problem throughout California. This unique experience is available to committed individuals with flexible schedules. If you meet the following volunteer requirements, and you think that an island work adventure sounds like a great experience, then please contact us soon. We will keep you informed of island activities and trip dates.

Volunteer Requirements/Benefits: You must be in good physical condition and able to leave on a Friday and return on a Monday by boat from Ventura. Bunkhouse-style housing (or space for your own tent) is provided at the University of California Field Station in the Central Valley. Depending on availability, you may need to share a room. You need to supply your breakfasts and lunches for the duration of your visit, but three evening meals are provided for the total cost of \$15.00. Cooking facilities and limited refrigerator space is provided. You need to put in several hours of work a day, but time is set aside for some sightseeing and relaxation. Be prepared to work, learn new things, and have a great time!

How to Contact Us: If you would like to participate in upcoming trips, or if you have any questions, please contact Ken Owen at islands@rain.org, or call 805/568-1507. Please indicate your daytime and evening phone numbers, plus email address.

Background Info on Organizers: Duke McPherson and Clark Cowen are respected arborists who have extensive experience with non-native plant eradication, particularly on Santa Cruz Island. Ken Owen works in the field of restoration ecology for the Santa Barbara Audubon Society and has a long-held passion for the Channel Islands. All three are committed to protecting and restoring habitat on Santa Cruz Island.

RARE PLANTS

Periodically we provide in this space detailed information about a rare plant that occurs within the Channel Islands Chapter region. This issue features a small annual native of the dandelion/chicory tribe, Lyon's Pentachaeta (pronounced "penta-key-ta"). This article was written by botanist Rick Burgess.

COMMON NAME: **Lyon's Pentachaeta** SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Pentachaeta lyonii*
 FAMILY: Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) RARITY STATUS: CNPS List: 1B State: Endangered Federal: Endangered

RECOGNITION CHARACTERISTICS: An annual member of the sunflower family, Lyon's Pentachaeta has **yellow** flowers and blooms in the late spring. The plants are often concentrated in rather dense populations. In height, individual plants can range from 2.4 to 18.9 inches, but in general, most of the plants in the Conejo Valley tend to be relatively short (3 - 6 inches). A unique feature of this plant is that **the outer petals (ray flowers) curl during the early part of the day**. The leaves are linear, have hairy margins, and are **arranged alternately on the stem**. Blooms in April through June.

SIMILAR PLANTS: The plant most frequently confused with Lyon's Pentachaeta is California Goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*), which like *Pentachaeta* is a small yellow-flowered aster that grows in colonies. However, California Goldfields can be immediately differentiated from Lyon's Pentachaeta because it has **opposite leaves**, rather than the alternate leaves found in *Pentachaeta*. In addition, the ray flowers of goldfields never curl.

HABITAT AND DISTRIBUTION: Lyon's Pentachaeta generally grows in sparse, thin-soiled grasslands, adjacent to shrubs in coastal sage scrub or chaparral. Preferred soil is clay derived from Conejo Volcanics, which often has a biological crust consisting of algae, lichen and mosses.

The species is currently known from five highly fragmented populations in southeastern Ventura and southwestern Los Angeles Counties, primarily in the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills. Within the Conejo Valley, Lyon's Pentachaeta is found on clay soils from the Seventh Day Adventist property in the west through the Rancho Conejo Open Space, Hill Canyon, Arroyo Conejo Open Space, Wildwood Park, and sporadically along the Mount Clef Ridge to the vicinity of the Olsen Road Water Reclamation Plant in the northeastern part of Thousand Oaks. Large populations also occur in the Westlake Village portion of the City, most notably the Lake Eleanor Open Space and Bridgegate Canyon. Lyon's Pentachaeta has a spotty distribution throughout its range and is absent from many areas of seemingly suitable habitat.

NOTES: Because of its annual status, the health and viability of individual Lyon's Pentachaeta populations is based on the previous year's seed crop. Consequently, population density and areal extent may vary widely from year to year. Lyon's Pentachaeta is not self-fertile and the plants rely on insect pollinators (mostly native bees and syrphid flies) to produce viable seeds. Any preservation attempts for Lyon's Pentachaeta must provide suitable nesting habitat for the plant's pollinators. Because Lyon's Pentachaeta often grows along trails, on old dirt roads and in other disturbed areas, it is often said that the plant requires disturbance. In fact, recent research indicates that Lyon's Pentachaeta grows in such habitats, not because of the disturbance, but because of the lack of competition with other plants.

Principal threats to Lyon's Pentachaeta include direct loss of habitat and the adverse effects of development in close proximity to the plant. Mitigation of development impacts to Lyon's Pentachaeta is particularly problematic. Because the plant is an annual, individual plants cannot be transplanted and efforts to broadcast the seed have not been successful. The only viable mitigation method is avoidance of the population. However, many efforts to set aside reserves to protect existing populations have failed because they were too small or too close to development.

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TIME VALUE MATERIAL

- 29 March, Botany Foray in Sespe (Wolf Fire) Burn Area
- 5 April, 9am-2pm, Spring Plant Sale
- 8 April, 6:30 pm, Channel Islands Chapter Strategic Planning Workshop
- 16 April, 7:30 pm, Wildflowers and Fire Followers slide show
- 26 April, Botany Foray in Sespe Burn Area
- 4 May, 9 am, French Broom Bash
- 21 May, 7:30 pm, Plant Identification Workshop
- 31 May 2003, 9 am, Botany Foray in Sespe Burn Area
- 14 June, 9 am, Pine Mountain/Chorro Grande Trail Hike
- 5 July, 9 am, Escalante River and Natural Bridge, Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument, Utah

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Horticulture*:	Patt McDaniel	646-9948	mcins@west.net
Legislation*:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Rare Plant Coord. (V):	Rick Burgess	983-1312	
Rare Plant Coord. (SB):	Steve Junak	682-4726	sjunak@sbbg.org
Membership:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Newsletter Editor:	David Magney (interim)	646-6045	dmagney@aol.com
Periodic Plant Watch:	Rick Burgess	983-1312	
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	
Publicity:	Connie Rutherford	339-9779	Ruthercam@earthlink.net
Field Trips:	<i>Your Name Could Be Here</i>		
Plant Sales:	Jim Dale	565-3220	jimdale@west.net
Poster Sales:	Scott Brown	644-6637	sbrown5534@aol.com
No.SB Co.Subchapter Liason:	Charlie Blair	733-3189	blairce@sbceo.org
Member-At-Large*:	Kirk Waln	650-9845	kkwaln@earthlink.net
Member-At-Large*:	Jim Dale	565-3220	jimdale@west.net
Member-At-Large*:	Scott Brown	644-6637	SBrown5534@aol.com

(All telephone numbers are in Area Code 805)

* = officer (voting)

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.