



Matilija Copy

Volume 16, Issue 3

Editor: David L. Magney

September-November 2003

President's Message

Welcome back from your summer activities. This year, YOUR Chapter NEEDS YOU to VOLUNTEER to actively support OUR CHAPTER and even to take on [FILL] specific chapter positions – one reason there continues to be a delay in completing, printing and mailing out our Chapter Newsletter is because too few people have had to do too many chapter jobs. Yes, everyone is busy; however, if a few more busy individuals VOLUNTEER for only ONE chapter task, each of us will be able to accomplish more in less time and have a wider range of member representation!

Elections are coming up and we need YOU to volunteer for a position in the upcoming election – several members filling positions are no longer able to continue with their respective Chapter efforts. It would be great to have two people running for each position, however, we all know that is not likely to happen. However, volunteers are needed for at least the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer [the Chapter has available the necessary software for the Treasurer], Legislation, Chapter Newsletter Editor [the newsletter is produced using MS Word and templates and examples are available], Program Chair, Outing Chair [several Chapter Members would be available to provide information about potential speakers and outing leaders], Plant Sale Coordinator/s [Co-Chairs for this twice yearly event would be great, and with only two events, Plant Sale organization is not too onerous or time consuming these days] and Website Coordinator [the Chapter has Dream Weaver software to maintain the website]. Several of the positions would benefit from volunteers being part of committees supporting various chapter programs, such as Horticulture, Outings, Education, Special Events, etc. So – please volunteer for just one thing, you will be helping a lot if you do!

Volunteers have already planned several fun and interesting Chapter native plant opportunities for this fall:

- Great programs – the first presented by David Chipping, State Conservation Program Director, in September;
- Annual Dinner Meeting, a catered affair on October 19th in Ventura;
- A variety of outings – let us know if you are interested in leading an outing or if you would be interested in helping to plan our future outings;
- Our Fall Plant sale, on November 8th;
- Our plant propagation, seed collecting and restoration events, including the Reinke Restoration Project, and events coordinated with other like-minded organizations and/or other Chapters;
- New and continuing Chapter horticultural, education, and school garden outreach efforts.

UPCOMING CHAPTER PROGRAMS

“CNPS State Conservation Program”

David Chipping, CNPS Conservation Program Chairman

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, 17 September, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Come hear Dr. Chipping talk about all the things CNPS is doing at the state level to conserve the California flora. David is an exciting and interesting speaker, with a great English accent. He is a professor of Geology at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and has been in charge of the CNPS State Conservation Program for several years.

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

CNPS Channel Islands Annual Dinner and

“Chumash Indian Uses of Native Plants”

Jan Timbrook, Ethnobotanist, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

6:00 p.m., Sunday, 19 October, Poinsettia Pavilion, Ventura

Join us for the Channel Islands Chapter's Annual Dinner for a great talk, good music and food, and see and bid on some beautiful artwork, again at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura. This year our guest speaker will be Dr. Jan Timbrook, a renowned Chumash Indian ethnobotanist from Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. The dinner is \$20/person, RSVP to Connie Rutherford (ruthercam@earthlink.net, and/or send check to her at the CNPSCI PO Box) required by 3 October (to give the caterer a head count – 10 October at the very latest). Boneless chicken, salad bar, dessert, & vegetarian entrée included. We need help with coordination and set-up, so please call Connie to offer your services ASAP. We particularly need help coordinating the art exhibit and auction. We will have a raffle and great door prizes, so you won't want to miss this event.

Directions to Poinsettia Pavilion: From US101 take the Seaward Exit and head North towards the hills. Take Seaward until it ends at Poli St./Foothill Rd., turn right onto Foothill Rd. and go to near the top of the hill. The entrance to the Poinsettia Pavilion will be on the left, with the parking lot on the left of the main driveway and (below) the building.

“Nutrient Loading of Mediterranean Coastal Streams”

Timothy Robinson, UCSB Bren School

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, 19 November, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Joins us for an interesting talk on how our coastal streams are affected by adjacent land uses, such as houses, agriculture, nurseries, etc. Tim will focus on the work they (at UCSB) have been doing in the Carpinteria Valley. They are developing a model to capture the expected pollution runoff for NO₃-N, NH₄-N, and PO₄-P (SRP). This talk should help us understand how community and business behavior and practices locally affect our wetland habitats. This may sound technical, but it should be very interesting to all.

Directions: 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. One good route is to take the Mission St. exit off US101, take Mission to Laguna, turn Left. Turn Right onto Mission Canyon Rd. at the mission. Turn Right onto Foothill Rd. Turn Left at next stop sign. Stay Right at next intersection, and up to SBBG.

A Special thanks goes to all the members who VOLUNTEERED and participated in the Chapter information booth at the Santa Barbara Home and Garden Show in mid-August – Our booth was a hit with people – so many were genuinely interested in obtaining information about CNPS restoration, preservation, education and horticulture efforts, as well as learning about the problems involved with invasive exotics.

(President's Message continued on Page 6)

Conservation Front – David Magney

CNPS et al. vs. Coastal Commission

CNPS and co-plaintiffs have filed a Notice of Appeal with the California Appeals Court over our loss in Superior Court in our lawsuit against the Coastal Commission et al. We sued the Commissions over its bad decision to permit the North Shore Development to destroy wetlands and other sensitive coastal habitats. The Sierra Club and Wetlands Action Network joined CNPS on the original lawsuit, and have joined in our appeal. While CNPS et al. have filed the notice of appeal, we are discussing possible settlement terms with the developer (funny that the Commission's attorney doesn't participate even though that it is the Commission we sued). Our primary concern at this point is that all the "required" mitigation measures actually are successful. As of now, we have no confidence in the Commission's oversight or the developer's environmental consultant's ability to properly design a feasible mitigation plan, or ability to construct the habitats in the places promised. Our hope is that we can settle this lawsuit, before it goes back to trial, and have reasonable assurances that the mitigation will be successful.

Mandalay/McGrath Beach-North Shore

Directly related to the issue described above, as part of North Shore's development permit from the Coastal Commission, North Shore must create a bunch of acres of wetlands on a parcel North Shore is buying from the McGrath family between McGrath Lake and the Mandalay Generating Station. This parcel contains existing coastal dune habitats and a go-cart track that has been there since at least the 1960s. The go-cart track will have to move to make way for the wetlands, and the operator is considering relocating Camarillo Regional Park. CNPS at this point has no confidence that North Shore will be able to create and establish all the acres of wetlands they are required to onsite. This was a foolish requirement made by the Coastal Commission, which also ignored the fact that many acres of valuable coastal dune habitats onsite, which would be destroyed to make way for wetlands that have very little credible chance of succeeding at this site.

Ahmanson Ranch Development

The attorneys are in the final portion of the briefing stage of this case before going to trial, which will be sometime in January 2004. However, it is very possible this lawsuit will never go to trial since the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is actively negotiating with Washington Mutual to purchase the Ahmanson Ranch. While the cost per acre will be quite high compared to land purchases for conservation purposes elsewhere in Ventura County (such as the 1,566 acres purchased in the Ojai Valley), it will be well worth the cost. The benefits to the environment, native plants, and humans living nearby will be great.

Newhall Ranch Development

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the project back in April (no surprise with that bad decision) and the supporting environmental documents now go back to court in October 2003 for the judge to determine whether they are adequate. The Friends of the Santa Clara River and others are arguing that they are NOT adequate. CNPS believes that Newhall Land and Farming Company violated the unfair business practices laws over the recent (and past) years in their efforts to win approvals from politicians and failing to disclose what biological resources they

had onsite when they found them. Now Newhall is taking their money and running out of town, selling the Ranch to Lennar Homes, a large developer.

Visit the chapter website (www.cnpsci.org) "Issues" web page for the history and downloadable copies of CNPS comment letters of previous CEQA documents for this project.

Ventura County Sensitive Habitats Overlay

Ventura County recently won two grants, one from the EPA and the other from the State of California, to work towards developing a planning overlay to regulate activities that may adversely impact sensitive biological resources. The resources to be considered include:

- Wetlands and wetland buffers;
- Rare species, including locally rare species;
- Wildlife movement corridors;
- Rare plant communities and habitats;
- Methods to classify and map natural vegetation consistently throughout Ventura County; and
- Recommend General Plan policies and regulations to fairly implement the protection measures.

Ventura County already has some good habitat protection policies in the General Plan; however, nothing has ever been mapped, and some policies are not consistently applied to all properties equally. Much work and analysis must be done before specific recommendations will be made to the Board of Supervisors, and CNPS members may be called upon to help gather data on the botanical resources of the unincorporated portions of the County.

Mt. Sinai-Kuehner Condo Development-Simi Valley

CNPS has been working with member Sybil Scotford and the Country Open Space Association in Simi Valley in critically reviewing a Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the City of Simi Valley that would result in significant impacts to the environment. The project is located at the north end of Kuehner Road at the northeast end of Simi Valley just north of State Route 118. The 10.5-acre site is located next to Rocky Peak open space areas. David Magney provided written and verbal testimony on the project on how the impact analysis, prepared by Rincon Consultants of Ventura on behalf of the developer, was flawed. The MND stated that no rare plants were present onsite, and that mature oak trees could be transplanted as mitigation.

Cher Batchelor of Magney's office found four locally rare plant species present onsite, and CNPS's analysis of Rincon's data identified additional locally rare plant species, including two taxa that have never before been reported to occur in Ventura County. Such finds are significant and should have raised questions if nothing else. Why didn't Rincon's botanists consider these significant discoveries when they performed their impact assessment?

Russ Baggerly, representing the Environmental Coalition of Ventura County, wrote a letter to the City pointing out that CNPS's/Magney's arguments represented a fair argument that challenged the developer's consultant's opposing arguments. He pointed out that when such a fair argument exists about potentially significant impacts, an EIR **must** be prepared and a MND **cannot** be used pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Fortunately, the City saw the writing on the wall and agreed; an EIR will now be prepared for the project.

See the chapter website for a copy of letters submitted on this.

Exciting Results from Plant Conservation Efforts on Guadalupe Island – By Steve Junak

An exciting cooperative project on the most isolated island in the California Floristic Province has begun to yield results. In 2001 the Island Conservation and Ecology Group (ICEG), a non-profit organization associated with UC Santa Cruz, asked for the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's help in protecting native plants on Guadalupe Island.



Barren landscape on the northeastern side of Guadalupe Island. In spite of the feral goats, a few native annual plants survive amongst the volcanic rocks.

Located about 160 miles off the west coast of Baja California, Mexico, the volcanic island of Guadalupe has an area of 98 square-miles and supports a unique flora. Guadalupe has the highest level of endemism (nearly 25%) on the 16 islands located between California's Point Conception and Baja California's Punta Eugenia. Guadalupe is the only oceanic island in the group; the rest of the California and Baja California islands are situated on the continental shelf.

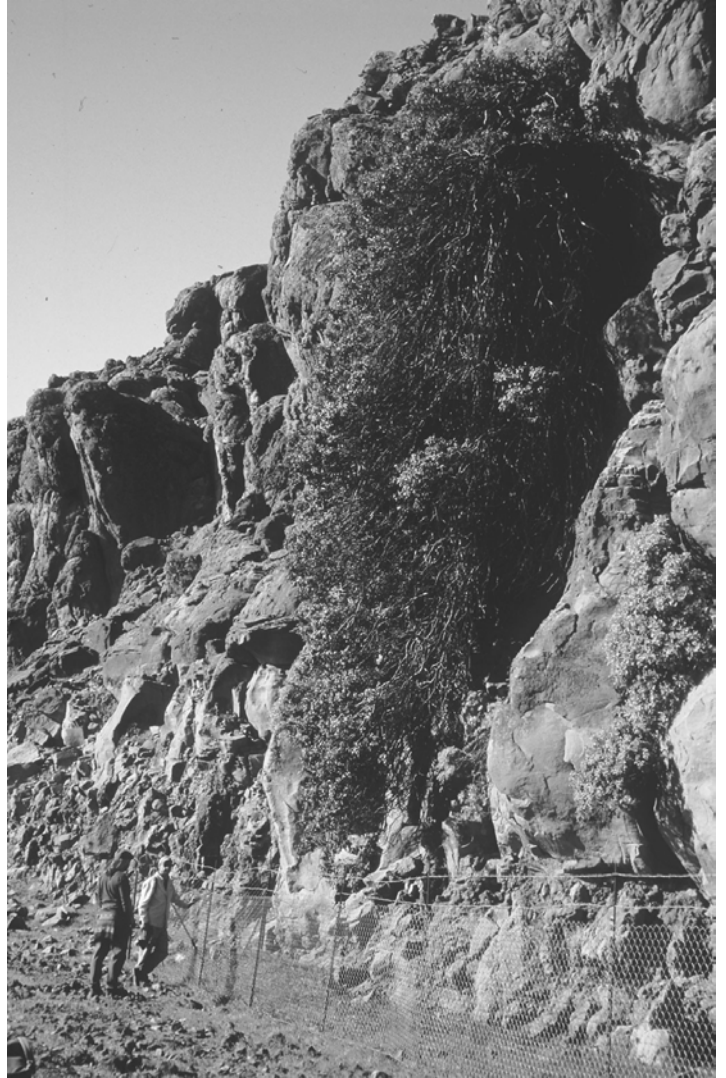
Unfortunately, feral goats that were introduced to Guadalupe in the 1800s have drastically altered the island's ecosystems. Once-extensive stands of endemic cypress, palm, and pine trees, as well as groves of junipers and Island Oak, have been dramatically reduced and non-native plants have invaded large areas. Although some goats have been removed from the island recently, extensive erosion has taken place, and at least 20 native plant species may have been eliminated.



ICEG researchers and Mexican horses above the clouds in the northwestern portion of Guadalupe Island. The endemic mint (*Satureja palmeri*) that was thought to be extinct was rediscovered in this area.

In an effort to protect some of the remaining native plants and to assess the potential for ecosystem recovery, 12 fenced exclosures were built in 2001

by a coalition that included the Mexican government, Mexican Navy, the local fishing cooperative, and ICEG. As the Garden representative on ICEG's team, I helped determine where the fences should be built to protect endemic plants. We chose sites in and near the remnant pine forest, in the cypress grove, at the base of steep cliffs where endemic shrubs like *Perityle incana* and the last few individuals of Laurel Sumac (*Malosma laurina*) still persisted, and on flats near the island's airfield. The sites that we chose in the cypress grove have protected populations of Island Nightshade (*Solanum clokeyi*) and other native understory plants. Altogether, about one mile of fencing was used in the exclosures that were built by Mexican goat herders from Sonora.



Fencing protects one of the last individuals of laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) on Guadalupe Island. An endemic sunflower (*Perityle incana*) is also protected on these rocky cliffs.

During my three short trips to the island, an endemic mint (*Satureja palmeri*) and a native tobacco (*Nicotiana attenuata*) that were thought to be extinct on the island were rediscovered. Several new plant records were documented, new populations of endemic plants were mapped, and native plants not seen for decades were found. Dozens of pine seedlings have appeared in the fenced areas. The most unexpected find was a juvenile Island Ceanothus (*Ceanothus arboreus*) in one of the pine exclosures. The last sighting of any kind of *Ceanothus* on the island had been in the 1890s and Island Ceanothus had never been reported!

Guadalupe Island has recently been proposed as a Biosphere Reserve of international importance and plans to remove feral goats are being developed. Although extensive damage to natural systems has occurred, our observations indicate that there is still hope for the island's unique plants if goats are removed quickly!

21 September 2003, Sunday, 10 am – 2 pm, Native Seed Collecting. Join Chris Byssche on a seed-collecting foray to gather seeds of native plants indigenous to the Ojai Valley. The seeds will be used to help restore native plant communities in the Ojai Valley on Ojai Valley Land Conservancy properties such as the Ojai Meadows Preserve. Call at 805/646-8090 or email Chris (cbysshe@yahoo.com) for meeting location and for more information.

12 October 2003, Sunday, 9 am – 1 pm, Castor Bean/Creek Restoration Work Party. Join Channel Islands Chapter members with keeping a small creek in Thousand Oaks free of invasive exotics such as Castor Bean and Summer Mustard. Tools, snacks, sandwiches, drinks, and gloves will be provided. Your help is vital to the Channel Islands Chapter, and the work is rewarding. Call Chris Byssche at 805/646-8090 or email him at cbysshe@yahoo.com for more information. Directions: US101 South or North, take Rancho Road exit, turn South at bottom of exit (towards the Santa Monica Mountains), Right on Rolling Oaks Drive (top of hill), and go to the bottom of the hill to the wide space along the road and creek.

23-25 October 2003, Headwaters to Ocean (H₂O) Conference. This conference is focused on integrating rivers, wetlands, and coastlines in the urban environment and will be one of the best wetlands conferences put on in a long time. There will be an entire session devoted to Ventura County's Calleguas Creek Watershed moderated by David Magney, with presentations by Magney and others from Ventura County. The conference will be held at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach, CA. It is sponsored by the California Coastal Coalition, California Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, and the Society of Wetlands Scientists (Western Chapter). Conference Website: <http://www.coastalconference.org/>

16-19 November 2003. Training Workshop/Symposium: Restoring Streams, Riparian Areas, Floodplains. Socorro, New Mexico. Association for State Wetland Managers and the International Institute for Wetland Science and Public Policy are putting on the 2nd Southwest Riparian Workshop and Symposium, held in conjunction with the 2003 Festival of the Cranes (<http://www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane/>). This interesting symposium will be held at the Macey Center, New Mexico Tech, Socorro, New Mexico (75 miles south of Albuquerque), hosted by the New Mexico Riparian Council. The agenda is posted at the ASWM website – <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/southwest/index2003.htm>. Registration is \$135, or \$45/day. CNPS members, students, and members of other NGOs only pay \$75. Registration forms can be downloaded from www.aswm@aswm.org.

1-3 December 2003, Sixth Channel Islands Symposium. Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel, Ventura, CA. Since the last California Islands Symposium in 1999, significant advances in resource protection and restoration have occurred on the California Islands and in the surrounding waters. Ongoing research continues to provide critical information regarding population and species biology, ecological and physical processes, and historic context. At the same time, new impacts to processes, systems, and natural and cultural resources throughout the California Islands system continue to appear. Go to the website to get all the details: <http://www.cnpsci.org/cis/cis2003>

Horticulture – Patt McDaniel

Native Plant Seed Collecting. Come along for a series of native seed collection trips within the Ojai Meadows Preserve and Ojai Valley areas. We will collect seed from native plants from Ojai Valley locations. We will also be taking note of other plant population's local phenology for use in timing future seed collections. The seed lots you collect will be stored, propagated, and planted for the upcoming Ojai Meadows Preserve Restoration Project, as well as on other *Ojai Valley Land Conservancy* restoration projects, and to help supply plants for the Channel Islands Chapter plant sales. Learn about plant phenology, as well as techniques in seed storage, pretreatment and propagation. Christopher Bysshe, a biologist for a local environmental company with a background in native plant revegetation will lead these trips. Bring water, snacks, a big wide hat, sunscreen, and thin light gloves. Seed collection bags will be provided. Call 805/646-8090 (ask for Chris) if you have any questions. You may email questions to cbysshe@yahoo.com. Dates set aside for seed collecting are:

7 September, 10am to 2pm 21 September, 10am to 2pm

Plant Propagation: Please contact Patt McDaniel or Chris Bysshe if you wish to become involved with Chapter's efforts to propagate locally native plant species. Thanks to Chris Bysshe and Scott Brown for seeds they have collected already.

Education – Sue Mills

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. Binders guiding teachers and volunteers on how to design and establish a school native plant garden are available from the CNPS State Office. - *Sue Mills, Education*

“Boothing”: Reaching Beyond the Choir

Most of us are familiar with working a booth or table at a variety of events such as Earth Day, native garden events, and other environmental fairs. Important as these venues are, we often see old friends and develop new like-minded contacts, essentially, “Preaching to the Choir”. On 16 and 17 August, Channel Islands and San Luis Obispo Chapters had a booth for the second year in a row at the Santa Barbara Home and Garden Show at the Earl Warren Fairgrounds. For some members, it was their first experience at a commercial trade show. We were one of a few more gardening booths than last year among a plethora of building materials, home security, financial, water processing, and even a smooth talking “vegetable slicer and cookware” salesman. Apparently, the promoters are trying to include more gardening groups in their shows, and included CNPS and other gardeners in their publicity.

In this arena, we were able to reach “Beyond the Choir” to a much wider audience. We were very well received. Some of the crowd and other vendors felt that we had one of the most interesting displays. Several people remarked that our booth made their attendance worth the price of admission. Although we sold some merchandise, we also made some good contacts with names and addresses, and certainly increased awareness of CNPS and its activities. Maybe we even energized some lapsed CNPS members into renewing their membership. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden participants visited us as well.

Overall, I feel that this was a worthwhile venture. Thanks to members of both chapters who supported and participated! I certainly encourage the chapters to consider other venues, such as local Farmers' Markets and

street fairs as important parts of our outreach to a wider public. The production company has encouraged us to participate on a regular basis, and to encourage other non-profit gardening groups to participate next year. I certainly hope that we do, and be alert for other ways to “Reach Beyond the Choir.” - *Charlie Blair, SB/SLO County Liaison*

Vegetation – Ken Niessen

Plant Community Mapping

Elizabeth Chatten, a recently hired biologist with the Ventura County Planning Division, recently completed the CNPS rapid assessment vegetation assessment-training course taught by CNPS Vegetation Ecologist Julie Evens. Ms. Chatten is interested in establishing a uniform and consistent natural vegetation classification and mapping system that will be used by all planners and consultants for projects within Ventura County. CNPS fully supports Ms. Chatten in this effort. One of CNPS major complaints when reviewing project impact assessments focuses on the lack of accuracy and consistency with describing and assessing impacts to native plant communities. The County's efforts to attempt to solve this problem are applauded. - *David Magney*

Invasive Exotics

Recently David Magney wrote a letter to the Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol to request him to protect the California native flora by enforcing the California Vehicle Code. At this point you ask, “How would the CHP be able to control invasive exotics by enforcing the vehicle code?” The answer is that Section 23114(a) of the code prohibits spilling **anything** on the highways from vehicles, except clean water and feathers. As any observant driver is aware, driving behind a truck hauling hay or yard waste will find your front grill full of straw and leaves.

A recent study has shown that weeds, consisting of noxious invasive exotic plants, are rapidly expanding their ranges in California, and mostly along our highways and roads. The seeds from these weeds primarily come from all those hay trucks flying down the road without their loads covered, as required by the Code. CNPS believes that if the CHP and county Sheriff's departments simply enforced the existing law prohibiting this spillage of seeds, the spread of noxious weeds would be slowed considerably. No new laws need to be written. Law enforcement just needs to do what they are supposed to do, enforce the law. Truckers and anyone hauling hay or clippings just need to cover their loads so that the wind doesn't blow the plant materials around and onto the road; very simple, maybe too simple.

A Native Plant Propagation Program is Underway by Chris Bysshe

“...[P]ropagation is attractive in its directness, its immediacy and the opportunity it provides to preserve options. Propagation can... provide demographic or genetic reservoirs for enhancing existing populations or creating new ones...” (M. Begon; J.L. Harper; C.R; Townsend. 1996. *Ecology: Individuals, Populations, and Communities*. 3rd edition. Oxford: Blackwell Science.)

“Demographic studies of plants indicate that each species population can possess unique attributes that ultimately determine local abundance and/or persistence through time.” (Harper, J. 1977. *Population Biology of Plants*. London: Academic Press.)

CNPS and the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC) are teaming up to propagate site-specific native plants for OVLC restoration projects, CNPS plant sales, and as a community resource for (*continued on Page 6*)

¿Obscure Botany Trivia Question?

Autumn 2003 Botanical Trivia Question

What am I referring to when I say, “according to Agenda 21”? (Hint: often discussed in Europe, almost never mentioned in the United States.)

Send your answers to David Magney via email or mail to PO Box 1346, Ojai, CA 93024-1346. Winners and answers will be announced in the next issue of Matilija Copy, and winners will receive a botanically oriented book as a prize.

For the **Summer Botany Trivia Question** we had one question: “During the Pleistocene, how far south along the California coast did the Coast Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) reach?” Charlie Blair made a good attempt with the *Santa Monica Mountains* with evidence at the La Brea Tar Pits in downtown Los Angeles, but that is not in the Channel Islands Chapter area. Good try Charlie, but I was looking for **Carpinteria**, where wood was found in a tar pit next to the beach in the late 1920s, dating back to the Pliocene Epoch.

www.cnpsci.org

Don't forget to visit the Channel Islands Chapter website regularly (at least bi-weekly). We try to update it regularly, so keep checking it. The website includes chapter contacts, membership information, and various articles on: conservation, horticulture, and education issues. It has a page dedicated to rare plants, including definitions, lists of rare plants from the region. 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. Note: the “last updated” date on the various web pages does not necessarily reflect recent updates.

Herbology – David Magney

Many of us are allergic to the oils in Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*) leaves and stems, resulting in a nasty rash that can last for a couple of weeks, very nasty situation indeed. There are a number of remedies that have been used, mostly to relieve the itching of the skin rash. Calomine lotion is one such remedy. Native American medicine has suggested that rubbing a paste from the crushed leaves of Mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) on the skin before and immediately afterwards can both prevent an adverse reaction and relieve the itching if a rash does develop. I have tried both, and can state that I have obtained some relief from itching after I had developed a rash.

CNPS member Patt McDaniel is also very allergic, and while living in Oregon she would eat Poison Oak honey, which gave her immunity for over a year. Chumash Indians are said to have eaten the young leaves to gain and maintain immunity of a dermatological rash from Poison Oak. I have yet to gain the courage to try eating Poison Oak leaves, but I will try some Poison Oak honey as soon as I find some. TecNue is probably the best and only product that truly denatures the active ingredient of Poison Oak that causes dermatitis, both as a prophylactic and a cleanser.

(President's Message continued from Page 1)

Thanks to all who are volunteering and supporting our Chapter events, programs and outreach efforts. You may want to check the State and Chapter websites for all the upcoming events. You can contact any of the Chapter officers for information about how you can support future chapter activities! The last page of this newsletter has email and telephone contact information.

(Native Plant Propagation Program – continued from Page 5)

regional site-specific native plants. Our initial focus will be collecting and propagating Ojai natives for OVLC's Ojai Meadows Preserve Restoration Project.

The Preserve is a 58-acre parcel located within the City of Ojai adjacent to Nordoff High School, State Route 33 (Maricopa Highway), and S. Lomita Avenue. The Preserve has an elevation roughly between 730 and 745 ft above sea level. It is a diverse landscape representing many of the habitat types that make up the Ojai Valley, such as oak woodland savanna, coastal sage scrub, riparian, and wetland meadow. The Preserve maintains many of the fundamental characteristics of these habitat types, but due to past flood control measures, agriculture-related disturbances, and fire hazard clearance it has lost much of the ecological function and value it once possessed. The stream courses have been straightened and diked. The wetland meadow and upland habitat types have been plowed and disced allowing non-native perennial grassland to dominate the understory, while much of the oak woodland, riparian woodland, and scrub species have been removed. However, many wildlife species still utilize the meadow such as: Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Red-winged Blackbird, Great Blue Heron, California Quail, Pacific Tree Frog, California Kingsnake, Monarch Butterflies, and Raccoon.

OVLC is implementing a restoration project for the Preserve in order to mitigate the past disturbances and to enhance the site's ecological function and value. Restoration activities will include: baseline studies and survey for restoration planning, modeling, and permitting; earthwork to improve floodplain-channel connectivity and establishment of vernal pools/marshes and holding basins; propagation and planting of native vegetation; and monitoring studies to determine and evaluate project success.

The objectives and benefits of the project are as follows: alleviate flooding from storm run-off for SR33 and Nordoff High School; restore wetland status to the Preserve; enhance wildlife protection; enhance groundwater recharge; establish a water recycling program; enhance recreational lands; expand outdoor education programs; and preserve the viewshed.

CNPS and OVLC are initiating the native plant propagation program by collecting native plant seed from the watersheds that feed and drain the area surrounding the Ojai Meadow Preserve within a 500- to 1,000-foot elevation band. This year's primary focus is on collecting woody perennials as well as wetland forbs and graminoids. Thus far, significant quantities of Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*), White Sage (*S. apiana*), Purple Sage (*S. leucophylla*), Greenbark Ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*), Sticky Bush Monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), Chaparral Mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*), S. California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*), California Bullrush (*Scirpus californicus*), Common Spikerush (*Eleocharis machrostachya*), Blue Fiestaflower (*Pholistoma auritum* var. *auritum*), Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei*), as well as a few other species, have been collected.

However, this is just the beginning. This will be a multi-year effort, and we are just in the mid-season of the first year! Other species we hope to collect this year include: Chaparral Honeysuckle (*Lonicera hispidata* var. *denudata*), Tule (*Scirpus acutus* var. *occidentalis*), Santa Barbara Sedge (*Carex barbarae*), California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California Fuchsia (*Epilobium canum* ssp. *canum*), Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Valley Oak (*Q. lobata*), Scrub Oak (*Q. berberidifolia*), Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Sugarbush (*Rhus ovata*), Lemonadeberry (*R. integrifolia*), Chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), and a number of manzanita species (*Arctostaphylos* spp.), to name just a few.

OVLC and our Chapter are also in the early planning stages of developing a native plant propagation center. Future components of our program will include: expanding our native seed collecting efforts to include more spring wildflowers and bunch grasses, as well as more woody perennials; and developing a plant cuttings propagation program. If interested in participating in this effort, please contact Chris Bysshe of CNPS or the Preserve Manager for OVLC, Janet Hanstad. You may reach Chris by calling 805/901-0842 or Janet by calling 805/646-7930.

Special thanks to member Cathy Schwemm, who developed the Chapter website and who is now busy with graduate studies at UCSB and no longer available to oversee our website. We need someone to replace her.

Hope you all had some relaxing summertime and are now ready to **ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE** in YOUR CHAPTER native plant projects and events! - Lynnne Kada, Channel Islands Chapter President, Chapter Council Chair

Santa Cruz Island Volunteer Restoration Trips

More trips to Santa Cruz Island are in the works. Past events have been very well received by the participants. 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.

We can start recruiting for the trip! The sooner we can put together a trip roster, the sooner we can "confirm" the spots on the Park Service boat. It would be best to send in the roster to The Nature Conservancy/National Park Service several weeks (or a month) ahead of time. Please keep in mind, that the Park Service has been known to bump people at the last moment. They can end up telling us that they will be using a smaller boat, and that only 15 people can go. This happens on occasion, but getting them a roster with plenty of time to spare should help avoid this.

I will need the name, phone, email and emergency contact name and number for each participant. During "orange alerts" we have to provide them with additional information. Should that be necessary, I will contact the participants for that info. It should be a great trip, and we are looking forward to it. Ken Owen, islands@rain.org, 805/568-1507.

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!

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.

Check the chapter website (www.cnpsci.org) for additional information and a checklist of items to bring.

RARE PLANTS

Ventura County Rare Plants – David Magney

Remember that a checklist of vascular plants rare or uncommon in Ventura County has been developed, and revised regularly. Currently there are 1,274 plants listed as at least locally rare (10 or fewer populations in Ventura County). You can download the most recent version of the checklist from the chapter website at www.cnpsci.org/html/PlantInfo/RarePlants2.htm and click on the title of the checklist to get it. David Magney updates the checklist at least once a month. Review the list and see if you can find new populations, and maybe remove some of them from the list of locally rare. We suspect more populations of a number of these plants are out there, we just don't know where. Report any finds of the 1,274 taxa to David at dmagney@aol.com or by phone at 805/646-6045.

Santa Barbara County Rare Plants

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, through Dieter Wilken, has developed, at the request of CNPS and part of their mission, a list of vascular plants that are rare in Santa Barbara County, using similar, but not exactly the same, criteria used for Ventura County. The list is available upon request from Dr. Wilken. Like the Ventura County list, the Santa Barbara County list is dynamic, changing regularly as new data are received. CNPS will soon provide a copy of the Santa Barbara rare plants checklist on the chapter website.

PAST HIKE REVIEWS – Ken Niessen

Botany Hike to Mt. Pinos 26 July 2003

The Mt. Piños trip turned out to be a joint trip with the Channel Islands and Santa Monica Mountains Chapters, with members from both being equally represented. Temperatures under the Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) trees at 8,300+ feet were refreshingly lower than at the elevations where most of us live. Interesting plants included Yellow Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus* ssp. *viscidiflorus*), Woolly-pod (*Astragalus purshii* var. *tinctus*), Mousetail Ivesia (*Ivesia santolinoides*), San Gabriel Penstemon (*Penstemon labrosus*), and Burlew's Onion (*Allium burlewii*). At the end of the hike we came across a medium-sized Western Rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*), which wasn't pleased to see us!

Santa Barbara Island Camping Trip 15-17 August 2003

The Santa Barbara Island trip was attended by members from the San Diego and Channel Island Chapters. On the boat ride out we saw Blue Whales (*Balaneoptera musculus*), Risso's (*Grampus griseus*), Bottlenose (*Tursiops truncatus*) and Common (*Delphinus delphis*) Dolphins, and Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*). Plants on the island were in the shape you'd expect for the middle of August: for the most part dry and dormant; however, a number of Santa Barbara Island specialties were readily identifiable. These included Santa Barbara Island Live-forever (*Dudleya traskiae*), Santa Barbara Island Buckwheat (*Eriogonum giganteum* var. *compactum*), and Santa Barbara Island Chickory (*Malacothrix foliosa* ssp. *philbrickii*). The abundance of Giant Coreopsis (*Coreopsis gigantea*) was impressive, as was the forest of stunted Coastal Cholla (*Cylindropuntia prolifera*) on the south end of the island. Diving and snorkeling were fair, because of moderate visibility and surge, but we did manage to get face to face with a number of California Sea Lions (*Zalophus californianus*).

Channel Islands Chapter
P.O. Box 5628
Ventura, CA 93005



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- 17 September, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, **Channel Islands Chapter Program**, Santa Barbara
- 21 September, Sunday, 10am–2pm, **Native Seed Collecting**
- 12 October, Sunday, 9 am–1 pm, **Castor Bean/Creek Restoration Work Party**, Thousand Oaks
- 18 October 2003, Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm, Southern California Botanists Symposium
- 19 October 2003, Sunday, 6 – 10 pm, **Channel Islands Chapter Annual Dinner and Program** on Chumash Ethnobotany
- 23-25 October 2003, Headwaters to Ocean (H2O) Conference.
- 1 November 2003, Saturday, 9 am, **Channel Islands Chapter Fall Color Hike, Sisar Canyon**
- 8 November 2003, Saturday, 9 am, **Channel Islands Chapter Hike, Murrieta Canyon**
- 16-19 November 2003. Training Workshop/Symposium: Restoring Streams, Riparian Areas, Floodplains, New Mexico
- 17 November 2003, Wednesday, 7:30 pm, **Channel Islands Chapter Program**
- 1-3 December 2003, Sixth Channel Islands Symposium

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

Special thanks go to California Native Landscapes for their generous donation in services with the Castor Bean eradication project in Thousand Oaks this past spring.

Channel Islands Chapter Officers/Program Contacts

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(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

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

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

Please do not share my address with any other organization

Send Membership application and check to:
 California Native Plant Society (or CNPS)
 2707 K Street, Suite 1
 Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

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.