



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Snowdy Dodson

Welcome to 2011. I am a New Year's resolutions enthusiast. Why not start off with some good intentions for life style changes as the year begins? This year I am vowing to spend more time paying attention to the needs of my own garden. Yes, too often I am more tempted by being out in the wild weeding, planting, and hiking, and I will not stop those activities; I simply plan to take a few hours a week and do something for my personal space. This will be my new spirit of thinking globally and acting VERY locally. In November, I saw this philosophy in action when I attended Eco Echo Park: Urban Sustainable Living (AKA the Historic Echo Park Home Tour) sponsored by the Echo Park Historical Society www.historicechopark.org. At the outset, I expected the tour to be a peek at how the other half lives i.e., homes and gardens that might be featured in *Architectural Digest* or the like. Although a few of the residences were of that ilk, most were places inhabited by ordinary folks who have a decidedly ecological/green approach to their life styles. The emphasis was on solar power, recycled construction materials, composting, worm culture, edible and native/drought tolerant landscapes, backyard hens, greywater systems and rain barrels - all in an urban neighborhood within spitting distance of downtown L.A. Many of the homes and gardens were historically significant "rescues" that were works in progress and an example of what individuals can do to bring about change in their own environments. Though I am not even thinking about the hens, I am intrigued by the idea of greywater, rain barrels, and other ways to capture and use water from my property. The Eco Echo Park homeowners exemplified how easily such things can be done.

The Elmer Avenue Green Street Demonstration Project in Sun Valley, a working class area of the northeast San Fernando Valley, is another example of how local actions can effect environmental change in a profound way. Our Chapter program in November featured an overview of this project presented by Edward Belden, Water Programs Manager of the Los Angeles/San Gabriel River Watershed Council (LASGRWC). Elmer Avenue was an underserved street in Los Angeles that had no sidewalks, storm drains, street lighting, or landscaped parkways and was the site of significant flooding during heavy rains. The LASGRWC in collaboration with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Street Services and other partners was awarded a grant to address these deficiencies. The grant enabled the installation of a water infiltration system to handle the runoff and prevent the street flooding, repaved the street with recycled asphalt, installed sidewalks and water capturing parkways landscaped with drought tolerant plants (mostly native), provided solar powered irrigation controls with rain sensors and solar-powered street lighting. At our January program, Ellen Mackey, LASGRWC Ecologist, will provide us with insights on the landscape maintenance challenges presented by the Elmer Avenue project. Join us and get inspired by what can happen in our local communities when agencies cooperate and work together. For further information on the project see the Fall 2010 issue of the LASGRWC publication, *WatershedWise* <http://lasgrwc2.org/publications/watershedwise.asp>

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

January 11, 2011 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

How Do You Maintain and Care for a Water-conserving Garden? The Elmer Avenue Project, Part II

Presenter: Ellen Mackey

The Elmer Avenue Project, Part I, was the CNPS November program. We learned how the project came to select one block of residential properties on Elmer Avenue for a demonstration of conserving water through landscaping and underground water structures. The front yards and the street were redesigned to capture water, prevent erosion, and stop the flooding during heavy rains. Landscaping was very important, using both native and California-friendly plants. Maintenance of these carefully designed landscapes is extremely important to achieve the long-term goals of the project. Ellen helped create a care and maintenance manual for each property, in English and/or Spanish. The manual schedules proper care and special maintenance activities. Know how to take care of your water-conserving garden features? Come and learn what works!

Ellen Mackey is a staff ecologist for Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and is on assignment to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council.

February 8, 2011 – 7:30 - 9:00pm
First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica

Habitat Fragmentation in the Simi Hills

Presenter: Dr. Katy Delaney

Recently Katy Delaney and Seth Riley completed a study on habitat fragmentation in the Simi Hills. They looked at the genetics of three common species of lizards and one bird, the wren-tit. The lizards and the wren-tit are small animals requiring cover and plant-based food sources to thrive, and ways to move safely to similar plant habitats for mates. What did Delaney and Riley find?

Dr. Katy Delaney earned her degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA, studying genetics and behavior of island and western scrub-jays.

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Calendar of Events on page 2.

PROGRAMS

TUES 1/11 7:30-9:30PM

Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

**The Elmer Street Project:
Now It Is Time For
Maintenance!**

Presenter: Ellen Mackey

Directions: the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino, is on the north side of Magnolia between Balboa & Hayvenhurst. Park in the lighted lot at the east end of the garden, walk west along the path to the garden center building. Native plant and gardening books will be for sale and refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00pm at Tony Roma's Restaurant, 16575 Ventura Blvd., Encino (818-461-8400)

TUES 2/8 7:30-9:00PM

First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

**Habitat Fragmentation
In The Simi Hills**

Presenter: Dr. Katy Delaney

Directions: The First United Methodist Church, 1008 11th Street, Santa Monica CA 90403, is one and a half blocks north of Wilshire Boulevard on 11th Street in Santa Monica. From the 10 freeway, exit at Lincoln. Go right, or north to Wilshire. Turn right. In three blocks turn left on 11th Street. The church is on the left, just past California. Church parking is on the right under an apartment complex. The Fireside Room is at the north end of the church's large patio, next to the Sanctuary. Native plant and gardening books will be for sale and refreshments are served. A no-host dinner precedes the meeting at 6:00pm at El Cholo Mexican Restaurant in Santa Monica at 1025 Wilshire Blvd.

For information about the above programs, please see "Upcoming Programs" on front page.

BOARD MEETINGS

TUES 1/4 7pm

LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting
at Jo Kitz's home at 6223 Lubao Ave in Woodland Hills. Chapter members are invited. 818-348-5910.

TUES 2/1 7pm

LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting
at Snowy Dodson's home in Van Nuys. Chapter members are invited. 15811 Leadwell Street. 818-782-9346

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SUN 1/9 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Weed War is Habitat Restoration Warring against (removing) the non-native plants (weeds) is necessary to restore biodiversity, habitat and ecological balance to the parks and preserves in the mountains. Bring water; wear sturdy shoes; tools and gloves provided; credit for community service hours. Please call for site location. *Reservations required:* 818-348-5910 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs*

SAT 1/15 8:30am

Caballero Canyon, Lower Trailhead

Chaparral Chatter explores the trails and byways of the valley's entrance into Topanga State Park. Winter rains bring a flush of green and early spring blooms (mountain lilac and currants) that add color to the canyon and ridges. Bring water, snack, hat; boots recommended. RSVP 818-881-3706. 3hrs

SAT 1/15 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Lost Oak Woodland Restoration In 1992, a volunteer oak planting program was started to restore wildlife habitat and to add to the beauty of the park. Commemorative Oaks Program is still going strong. Volunteers have added over 3,000 oak and native trees to the park. Volunteers are needed to plant and care for even more trees and to attend the volunteer supervisor's training program offered by TreePeople. Bring water, snack, sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 4hrs*

SUN 1/16 8:45am

Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Park Restoration: In 2008, a massive earth-moving project returned Topanga Creek to its historic channel. Volunteers are planting oaks, sycamores and native plants to create habitat. All ages welcome; no experience necessary. Bring, water, snack, sturdy footwear. Credit for community service. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs*

SAT 1/22 8:45am

Cold Creek Preserve

Be a Habitat Restorationist for a Day. Plant native trees, wildflowers, sages, shrubs and grasses on which the many birds and animals depend for food, nesting and safety. Bring snack and water; wear sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 4hrs*

SUN 1/23 8:45am

Peter Strauss Ranch

La Sierra Canyon Native Plant Restoration. In this beautiful area we will "pull (weeds) and plant (native plants)" to create wildlife habitat. Meet in PSR parking lot to caravan to work site. Bring water and snack; wear sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 4hrs*

SUN 1/23 10am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Spring wildflowers; lapping waves; sandy beach and the hope to seeing a migrating whale migrating or a rollicking sea lion. 2hrs Info: 818-782-9346

SUN 2/6 8:45am

Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Park Restoration: In 2008, a massive earth-moving project returned Topanga Creek to its historic channel. Volunteers are planting oaks, sycamores and native plants to create habitat. All ages welcome; no experience necessary. Bring, water, snack, sturdy footwear. Credit for community service. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs*

SAT 2/12 8:45am

Cold Creek Preserve

Be a Habitat Restorationist for a Day. Plant native trees, wildflowers, sages, shrubs and grasses on which the birds and animals depend for food, nesting and safety. Bring snack and water; wear sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 4hrs *

SUN 2/13 8:45am

Santa Monica Mountains

Weed War is Habitat Restoration Warring against (removing) the non-native plants (weeds) is necessary to restore biodiversity, habitat and ecological balance to the parks and preserves in the mountains. Bring water; wear sturdy shoes; tools and gloves provided; credit for community service hours. Please call for site location. *Reservations required:* 818-348-5910 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 3.5hrs*

SAT 2/19 8:30am

Caballero Canyon Lower Trailhead

Chaparral Chatter hike explores the coming together of winter and spring as early wildflowers burst into bloom with a few shy appearances of four-o'clock, fiesta flower, ceanothus, and chaparral currants, and the first showing of miners' lettuce in the oak woodland; the first greens of different popcorn flowers and phacelia. Bring water, hat, snack; boots recommended. RSVP 818-782-9346. 3hrs

SAT 2/19 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Lost Oak Woodland Restoration See Jan. 15 for details. Bring water, snack, sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit.) *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 4hrs*

SUN 2/20 8:45am

Peter Strauss Ranch

La Sierra Canyon Native Plant Restoration. In this beautiful area we will "pull (weeds) and plant (native plants)" to create wildlife habitat. Meet in PSR parking lot to caravan to work site. Bring water and snack; wear sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required:* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org. 4hrs*

SUN 2/27 10am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Spring wildflowers; lapping waves; sandy beach and the hope to seeing a migrating whale migrating or a rollicking sea lion. 818-782-9346 2hrs

UPCOMING EVENTS

CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

March 12–13

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Early March is a perfect time of the year to visit Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and on March 12 and 13th, the local CNPS chapters will be hosting the quarterly Chapter Council meeting at the Garden. If you would like to carpool there please leave your name and phone number (or email) at the chapter phone 818-881-3706 or to lacnps@lacnps.org.

NEWS FROM THE SANTA CLARA RIVER

The minutes from the last Santa Clara River Invasive Weeds Task Force Meeting are now available at the new and very simple website of the SCRIWTF (<http://ucanr.org/sites/SCRIWTF>), along with the presentations. Additional content will be added over the coming weeks. Check the same website for next meeting's location and agenda.

Also on the website is a way to sign up for the mailing list. Please sign up online so that you are informed on upcoming Task Force meetings, projects, and grant opportunities. In addition, please share this link with your lists so that those members may sign up if they are interested.

NATIVE PLANT WEEK SYMPOSIUM AND CHAPTER WILDFLOWER SHOW

April 23, 2011 (Saturday); 9am-4pm

Save the Date and Call for Cuttings

The California State Assembly and Senate have approved Resolution ACR 173 (Evans) establishing **California Native Plant Week**, April 17-23, 2011. This measure proclaims the 3rd week of April, each year, as California Native Plant Week and encourages community groups, schools, and citizens to undertake appropriate activities to promote the conservation, restoration, and appreciation of California's native plants.

The resolution (ACR 173) was introduced by Assemblywoman Noreen Evans (D – Napa), was sponsored by the California Native Plant Society, and garnered the support of horticulturalists, conservation organizations, and nurseries throughout California.

ACR 173 recognizes the vital historical, artistic, and economic contributions California's native plants have made to our State, and points out that California native plant gardening and landscaping have tremendous positive impacts to our watersheds, to habitat recovery, and to curbing catastrophic wildfires. In particular, the resolution recognizes that home landscaping and gardening with native plants can cut residential water use from 60 to 90% over conventional gardening.

Our CNPS Chapter's annual Wildflower Show is scheduled for April 23 at the Sepulveda Garden Center in conjunction with a simultaneous Native Plant Week Symposium, plant and book sale. The Symposium will feature speakers throughout the day. We welcome California native wildflower cuttings from your home gardens.

Contact Snowdy Dodson via email: snowdy.dodson@csun.edu or phone: 818-782-9346 for details. The cuttings need to be available for set up on Friday, April 22.

DESCANSO GARDENS CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAINTENANCE & TOUR

SAT. FEB. 5, 9 AM–NOON, PLANTING;
NOON, TOUR

The California Garden at Descanso Gardens was designed by Theodore Payne 50 years ago and is in need of some TLC. Volunteers are needed to weed the area we planted in November and do other maintenance. Bring gloves, hat, water, snacks, sensible shoes and sunscreen. Rachel Young, the Native Horticulturist for Descanso Gardens, will coordinate this effort and will lead the tour. Rain cancels. Contact Rachel for further information at: Rachel@descansogardens.org or phone Snowdy Dodson at 818-782-9346. Entrance to the Gardens will be free to those who volunteer. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge near the intersection of the 210 and 2 freeways. See the Descanso Gardens website for directions from various locations: www.descansogardens.org

FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CLARA RIVER VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Various Locations!!!

The 2010-2011 workdays will be at various locations along the Santa Clara River, including properties owned by The Nature Conservancy at Briggs Road and east of the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, and other locations.

The locations of future workdays will be posted on the FSCR website (www.fscr.org/) and emails will be sent out at least two weeks prior to the event. For each workday, plan to meet at 9:00 am and finish by 11:30 or 12:00. Bring water and sun protection; Some tools and gloves will be available onsite, but it's always nice to bring your own. Note: Some locations will not have porta-pottie or other facilities. **LONG PANTS AND BOOTS OR CLOSED SHOES ARE REQUIRED.** Because of our healthy population of rattlesnakes, this dress code will be strictly enforced!!

WORKDATES

January 8th, Saturday

February 6th, Sunday

March 5th, Saturday

April 3rd, Sunday

NOTE: Substantial rainfall cancels the workday!!!

See www.lacnps.org for additional links. Contact Jackie Worden for more information: jbworden7@gmail.com

Chapter Election Results
Thanks to all of you who voted in our recent election and also to those who agreed to run for office. Our 2011 officers are: Snowdy Dodson, President; Jo Kitz, and Halli Mason, Co-Vice Presidents; Henrietta Yuan, Secretary; Steve Hartman, Treasurer; Betsey Landis, Chapter Council Delegate.

MALIBU LAGOON RESTORATION PLAN APPROVED

Malibu Lagoon is probably the only semi-natural coastal lagoon left in Los Angeles County. As such it has high value for education and bird watching and supports two endangered species, the southern steelhead and the tidewater goby along with important bird habitat.

Malibu Lagoon was filled by Caltrans and turned into a Little League baseball field for many years in the 1960's and 70's. State Parks eventually regained the land and set out to restore the Lagoon in 1980. Unfortunately, knowledge of the Lagoon was not as complete then as now, and the restoration plan included miscalculations. The Lagoon channels were too shallow and began to fill in, slowing circulation and increasing exposure to pollution.

The methods State Parks proposed to use to restore Malibu Lagoon resulted from meetings with academic experts and conservation groups over several years and were supported by most mainstream conservation groups, including Heal the Bay, but they generated controversy because they involved the use of heavy equipment to dig some of the channels the state and the experts felt were necessary to restore healthy tidal flow and maintain water quality. The Coastal Commission agreed with State Parks and approved the state restoration plan by unanimous vote.

COASTAL COMMISSION APPROVES MALIBU PARKS ACCESS PLAN

The City of Malibu, which takes in almost twenty miles of the Malibu coastline, has a long history of being unfriendly to public access and public use of both coast and mountains. The trail system in the city limits is much more undeveloped than in nearby parks, and the City has historically opposed overnight camping within the City limits.

To remedy this deficiency the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has taken the bull by the horns and drafted a Malibu Parks Access Plan which would connect the Conservancy's five separate park units in Malibu with each other and Malibu Creek State Park, the Backbone Trail, and existing public beaches and develop campgrounds in two of the units - Lower Corral Canyon on Pacific Coast Highway at the mouth of Corral Canyon and Malibu Bluffs just off the highway to the east. There would be walk-in campgrounds with direct access off Pacific Coast Highway at two MTA Line 434 bus stops.

Malibu residents and the City had tried to block overnight camping by raising fears of brush fires. The Conservancy responded with a "cold camping" policy, with a wildfire-trained "camp host" stationed at each campground to enforce the rules against any fires.

The residents and the City put up a real fight at the hearing on October 13th, but, after hearing extensive testimony, the Coastal Commission gave unanimous approval to the Malibu Parks Access Plan.

The above two articles were excerpted from the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force Newsletter of the Sierra Club.

REPORT ON CAL-IPC SYMPOSIUM AT VENTURA

by Bill Neill
Invasive Exotics contact

On Oct. 14-15, I attended the annual Symposium of the California Invasive Plant Council (www.cal-ipc.org) at a beach-front hotel in Ventura, with my registration paid by the Orange County CNPS Chapter. I appreciate this sponsorship and will summarize some of the meeting highlights.

The symposium theme was "Weeds & Wildlife: Impacts and Interactions;" and much of this discussion was about the Channel Islands offshore from Ventura. For example, what happened when The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service removed feral pigs and sheep from Santa Cruz Island? Answer: Populations of native plants and exotic fennel exploded as grazing pressure disappeared. Despite control efforts, fennel appears to be established permanently, and birds use it as a food source. Conclusions were that some native plants are displaced by fennel's competition for resources, but wildlife may benefit from fennel's presence if interspersed with native plants; and that land managers should have controlled invasive weeds earlier as herbivores were removed.

A report on the tamarisk biocontrol project was another complicated story. About 20 years ago, a research project was started to identify insects that eat or damage deciduous tamarisk in its native range from the Mediterranean Sea to China. After much study, a tamarisk leaf beetle was released at various locations in northern California, Utah and Colorado where the beetle is now thriving and starting to control tamarisk populations on a large scale. This biocontrol agent was excluded from southern California and Arizona, because an endangered native bird, the southwestern willow flycatcher, builds nests in tamarisk trees where willows are absent; and biologists with the US Fish & Wildlife Service thought that the flycatchers would be harmed if nesting trees were defoliated. Studies of the biocontrol release areas indicate a more beneficial outcome: native riparian trees do become re-established as the invasive tamarisk disappears, although not immediately; and not surprisingly, birds such as the flycatcher eat the tamarisk leaf beetles, so that large tamarisk monocultures are converted from biological deserts to habitable zones for wildlife.

At the previous Cal-IPC Symposium at Visalia in 2009, a researcher named Dr. James Leary from the University of Hawaii described his new invention of controlling invasive tree ferns on Kauai's steep inaccessible slopes by firing herbicide-filled capsules at the foliage from helicopters using paintball guns. Videos of the method posted on YouTube can be viewed by searching for "Leary" and "herbicide." Last spring I proposed a test of this paintball application method (without helicopters) for controlling tall Canary Island date palms growing along the Santa Ana River near Riverside; and our Santa Ana River & Orange County Weed Management Area (of which the OC Chapter is a member) agreed to pay Dr. Leary's travel expenses to California for that purpose before this year's symposium in Ventura. Whether or not the paintball delivery method will be effective on date palms, we're certain the method will be useful, after it is commercialized, for treating invasive wildland weeds in California such as castor bean and Spanish broom growing on steep road cuts that are not otherwise accessible.

JOIN PLANTRIGHT FOR ITS SPRING 2011 NURSERY INVASIVES SURVEY

The PlantRight campaign has invited the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains CNPS Chapter to participate in their 2nd annual Spring Nursery Survey during the spring of 2011. PlantRight (www.plantright.org) is a partnership between scientists, government agencies, environmental groups, and the horticulture industry that works to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive garden plants in California. The survey is designed to detect the presence or absence of invasive plants in the inventories of retail nurseries across the state and allows PlantRight to monitor changes in the market for invasive plants over time. Please note that the survey is not intended for personal outreach to retail stores.

Participation in the 2011 PlantRight Spring Nursery Survey will begin with a prerequisite, educational webinar held on Wednesday, February 23rd from 7:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday, February 26th from 9:00am-11:00am. Please go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/LZHVJLD to register for one of these free online webinars.

Taking part in the Spring Nursery Survey is voluntary and entails:

1. Taking a short quiz to verify you've watched the webinar;
2. Signing up to survey a store in your county (that PlantRight randomly selects);
3. Gathering materials: survey instructions, survey form, plant pictures, etc.;
4. Visiting the store and collecting information about any invasive plants sold there;
5. Submitting the information online or mailing the survey forms to PlantRight.

On average, the above steps will take about 2 hours to complete.

In 2010, 66 volunteers from 27 counties participated in the *Spring Nursery Survey*. Their contributions revealed that 78% of the 73 surveyed nurseries were not carrying any of the 19 invasive plants on PlantRight's list. In addition, 92% of survey participants rated their experience as positive, indicating their ability to contribute to an important conservation cause while enjoying themselves!

If you are interested in participating in the 2011 *Spring Nursery Survey*, please register for one of the webinars at www.surveymonkey.com/s/LZHVJLD. If you cannot attend the webinars, a recording will be made available to watch at a later date; we can notify you when the recording is available if you fill out the form at www.surveymonkey.com/s/39FZWMB. Lastly, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Greg Richardson at grichardson@suscon.org or (415) 977-0380, ext 323.

GRANDMOTHER OAK BLOGSPOT

Rosi Dagit who is the author of our CNPS Chapter's publication – *Grandmother Oak* – now has a blog devoted to information about the venerable tree and her history. Visit <http://grandmotheroak.blogspot.com/> for a map to the ancient tree and other pertinent information.

ADOPT A TOPANGA TURTLE

The Topanga Turtle Project has monitored the largest population of native southwestern pond turtles left in the Santa Monica Mountains since 2002. Unfortunately, the grant to fund the project ended in 2009. Though there are wonderful volunteers to help, money is still needed for bait, gear, and data processing. It costs about \$1,500 per year to keep the monitoring going on a bare bones basis.

For a tax-deductible donation of \$25 (or more if you have the funds), you can adopt a juvenile, male or female turtle. You will be given details on how much they have grown (juveniles), how much they weigh and if they have produced any eggs (females!). We will also provide an overview of what has been learned about turtle research to date and contact information to volunteer next spring to help monitor their progress.

The Topanga Turtles are quite amazing, with a well established social structure. Radio tracking efforts have revealed that these turtles make and keep specific friends, have romantic liaisons with attractive males, and go as far as half a mile to find the perfect shrub oak or sumac bush for shelter over the winter. To help out the Turtles, send a check to the RCDSMM Turtle Project, PO Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638. Specify if you want to “adopt” a juvenile, male or female turtle. You will be sent a photo and life history details of your adoptee. For more info, contact Rosi Dagit at rdagit@rcdsmm.org.

SIGNIFICANT FINDING ON LOSS OF SPECIES DIVERSITY IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

I want to share an important scientific finding concerning the affects of habitat fragmentation on species diversity in the Santa Monica Mountains and Rim of the Valley Corridor. National Park Service and USGS scientists working in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area have published the first peer reviewed evidence of significant population genetic changes caused by habitat fragmentation.

As part of the study, scientists looked at three common species of lizards and a small song bird (or wrentit) and how they are being affected by urbanization and fragmentation. The study looked at isolated scrubland patches surrounding Thousand Oaks and State Route 23 – an area that was mostly contiguous wilderness only 50 years ago. The data shows that the populations of lizards and wrentits have become disconnected and isolated as their natural habitats have become divided. Unable to cross urban barriers, the populations have begun to inbreed and lose genetic diversity. The consequences may lead to extinction over time – a reality that could be accelerated by climate and other environmental changes.

The findings underscore the significance of our work as land use planners and protected area managers to conserve linkages and natural area connectivity.

The article is published in the scientific journal PLoS ONE and is available at <http://dx.plos.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0012767>. Many thanks to Dr. Seth Riley and Dr. Kathleen Semple Delany of the National Park Service, and Dr. Robert Fisher of the San Diego Field Station of the US Geological Survey for this important work.

Woody Smeck, Superintendent
National Park Service
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
(805) 370-2344 office

LA STORMWATER BLOG

The LA Stormwater program is designed to raise awareness of stormwater pollution in the Los Angeles area. Anything dropped on the ground, including gardening chemicals will get picked up from the rain and reach its way to the ocean, contributing to pollution of our waters. The LA Stormwater program is dedicated to educate the public in making environmentally responsible actions, such as water-wise gardening. LASW is using a blog www.lastormwater.info/blog/ to advance the program's efforts by increasing access to information, facilitating partner integration, and encouraging community involvement in the protection of our waters. Check out the new blog to find out the latest information including how to prevent stormwater pollution, how to properly dispose harmful chemicals, sustainable gardening, and upcoming events.

NEWHALL RANCH AND SPINEFLOWER

On Dec. 3, 2010, the California Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) certified the Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report for the Newhall Ranch Resource Management and Development Plan and Spineflower Conservation Plan. DFG also issued a Master Streambed Alteration Agreement and Incidental Take Permits related to the project. More on this development will follow in future *Toyon*s.

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL: MAP THE SPREAD TO STOP THE SPREAD

In 2006-2008 Cal-IPC mapped the existing distribution of all species in the Cal-IPC Inventory by county and Jepson floristic region. In 2010-2011 mapping at a finer resolution (7.5 minute USGS quadrangles) continues.

The keystone of this effort is to gather a group of local botanists and land managers and map their expert knowledge. We're seeking input from CNPS volunteers with strong botanical skills and a regional knowledge of invasive plant distribution. Come participate in our data gathering meetings!

Meetings have been informative and collaborative, with palpable excitement about the final mapping products. The outcomes of this project will enable users to answer questions like: *What's here, What's on the move, What's on the way, What's ripe for eradication and What's ripe for containment?*

To participate, please contact your chapter's invasive species or conservation coordinator (if applicable) or email mapping@cal-ipc.org. Visit www.calweedmapper.org for more information.

NEW CNPS ONLINE INVENTORY OF RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

The California Native Plant Society has released an updated version of the *Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants*, a primary data reference for information about the conservation status of over 2,200 of California's rare and endangered plants. The new Online Inventory is available for use at www.rareplants.cnps.org.

The Rare Plant Inventory started as a deck of note cards, then became an authoritative book, and then became the highly accessible, searchable online application created by long time CNPS member and volunteer, Larry Levine. Now a decade later, the next generation of the application is ready for use. In addition to the complete technical and functional makeover, a new home page provides a fresh new look and includes information on plants that are currently in review as well as those that have been recently added, deleted, or undergone a recent change in status ranking. A new advanced search page provides users with instantaneous counts for individual and combined criteria along with a much improved nine-quad search function. The update also includes additional data on the number of occurrences for each rare plant along with a new customizable and easy to print map that displays rare plant locations throughout California.

Our primary goal for this release was to create a more intuitive end user experience while providing substantially improved functionality; thus making work with the vital data enjoyable, easy, and fun.

You can try out the new Online Inventory by accessing it from the CNPS website at www.CNPS.org or by accessing it directly at www.rareplants.cnps.org.
CNPS Contact: Aaron Sims 916-324-3816

FLORA OF KINGS COUNTY

I just finished the first version of the **Flora of Kings County, California**. It is very short and there are only 350 taxa known to occur in that San Joaquin Valley county. Spread the word, increase the species richness of this depauperate county by botanizing it soon and adding to the botanical knowledge of this poorly collected county.

You can download the flora, all 8 pages, from the Sespe Institute's website: <http://sespeinstitute.com/>, along with other interesting stuff, like terrestrial snails.

David L. Magney
president@cnpsci.org

NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM FEBRUARY 12

The Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will be holding its second annual Native Plant Landscape Symposium on February 12, 2011. The meeting will be held at the Barn of the Camarillo Ranch House Foundation, thanks to their continued generosity. Explore some new and interesting topics this year in the day-long event lasting from 8:00 am to 4 pm.

John Greenlee, a horticulturalist, author, and garden designer specializing in meadows and grass ecologies, will speak on "Native Grasses in Meadow Gardens." Also featured is **Lili Singer**, horticulturalist, garden consultant and freelance garden writer for the Los Angeles Times, Special Projects Coordinator for the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants, and one of the best known speakers on gardening with natives. **Pamela Berstler** is an award-winning sustainable exterior designer and landscape water management expert; she has collaborated closely with Surfrider Foundation, developing homeowner classes for its Ocean Friendly Gardens Program and will bring to us innovative techniques for water conservation, permeability, and retention to integrate with native landscapes. **David Magney**, environmental consultant and stalwart CNPS volunteer, will discuss native trees, exploring the use of trees that are less commonly selected for the landscape. Keep posted for one or two additional speakers to be announced! Lunch will be delectably designed, once again, by chef Carrie Clough from 90% locally-grown organic produce. The cost is \$45 for CNPS members, \$60 for General Public. For more info and to register go to cnpsci.org.

VEGETATION MAPPING WORKSHOP

University of Redlands and Field Sites in Western Riverside Co., Jan 31-Feb 2, 2011

Please join the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Aerial Information Systems (AIS) for a three-day, vegetation mapping workshop that combines computer and field exercises in fine-scale veg mapping. **Target Audience:** Professional botanists, ecologists, resource managers, GIS and vegetation mapping specialists. Participants should have an initial understanding of the subject matter and of GIS.

Primary Instructors:

Dr. Todd Keeler-Wolf, CDFG, Senior Vegetation Ecologist for the Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program (VegCAMP)

John Menke, AIS, Senior Vegetation Mapping Specialist

Julie Evens, CNPS, Senior Vegetation Ecologist

Cost: Members \$665; Non-members \$690

For full details and registration, please go to

<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>.

For further questions please email Josie Crawford at jrcrawford@cnps.org or call (916) 447-2677 ext 205.

Workshop Objectives:

- Practice creating a vegetation map using Geographic Information Systems;
- Learn about vegetation sampling, classification, and air photo interpretation;
- Collect reconnaissance samples to support the 2nd edition of a *Manual of California Vegetation* classification;
- Practice techniques of photo interpretation, delineation, and attribution;
- Validate a fine-scale vegetation map through accuracy assessment.

Uses of Fine-scale Vegetation Mapping: Measure biodiversity at a landscape level; Assess different types, locations and acreages of vegetation types; Identify specific habitat requirements of target species; Monitor habitat changes over time; Adaptively manage species; Perform detailed landscape and watershed analyses.

FREE TOURS OF THE UCLA BOTANICAL GARDEN: BY RESERVATION AND DROP-IN

Visit the **UCLA Mildred E. Mathias Botanical Garden** and enjoy the free public education programs offered there.

Tours are offered on a reservation basis for groups of 10 or more during the week and free drop-in tours are offered on the first Saturday of each month (this enables visitors of all ages to enjoy a guided tour without having to make advance reservations).

Tours begin at the Nest, an outdoor classroom with semicircular bench seating, located in the northern end of the garden near the Botany Building. They last approximately one hour, and are automatically canceled in the event of rain. Basic botanical concepts are introduced along with interesting historical facts and unusual characteristics of several rare plant specimens.

Parking on the UCLA campus is \$10. There is also parking on the street or in lots in Westwood Village. Activities within the garden are limited to those that are compatible with the quiet, natural surroundings and that do not disturb others. Visitors may eat on the grounds, but are asked to dispose of all trash when they leave. Please note the garden does not have drinking fountains or bathroom facilities. Visitors may bring their own drinking water and use the bathroom facilities in the building across the street.

TREE PLANTING IN THE STATION FIRE AREA

To CNPS Members,

As a public servant, I believe one of my biggest responsibilities is full disclosure in all my work. I gave a presentation at the monthly CNPS meeting in November 2009. At the time, several members asked me if we are using genetically appropriate trees for Station Fire tree planting. I gave everyone my word we are planting trees grown from seeds collected locally and from within the same seed zone. I also explained that trees would be planted according to pre-fire conditions. At the time, this was the direction included in the proposed action.

Within the last month, I have been informed of changes in the proposed action related to seed origin and species mix. First, because sufficient quantities of local seeds were not available, the 2011 tree planting effort will include seedlings from both local and non-local seed sources. A portion of the seedlings to be planted in 2011 are from seeds collected on the Cleveland and Los Padres National Forests. Second, there are not sufficient quantities of seedlings by species to plant according to the pre-fire conditions. As a result, the 2011 planting effort will result in areas being planted with seedlings that do not correspond to the pre-fire species composition.

In 2011, 4223 acres will be planted.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project please contact the Forest Resource Officer, Lisa Northrop at 626-574-5264 or email at lnorthrop@fs.fed.us

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CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION COOPERATIVE WORKSHOPS - JANUARY 2011

Among the number of regional planning / climate change related initiatives happening across California and the US, the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) is one of the larger ones. Administered by the USFWS, there are 18 or so LCC regions planned for the US, 6 of which are targeted for implementation in the next few years. Farthest along the implementation path is the CA LCC. Earlier this year, I attended a USFWS workshop meant to identify guiding principles for the northern region of the CA LCC. In January 2011, there will be two workshops held in Southern California to do the same for the southern region; a San Diego event on January 25th, and another in LA on January 26th. Information about the CA LCC from the CALCC website can be found at www.californialcc.org

Coastal Southern Subunit: Consists of the coastal mountain ranges of central California, southern California and northern Mexico, lands between the Mojave Desert and the Pacific Ocean, and numerous offshore islands

Please consider attending one of these workshops. If you do, let me know how it goes, and your thoughts on the purposes and process of what is going on here.

GregSuba, CNPS Conservation Director (gsuba@cnps.org)



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Native Plant Landscape Symposium Feb. 12 (see page 6)

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THANKS

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