



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

JANUARY 8, 2008 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
ENCINO

FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPE PRESENTATION

Speaker: Marty O’Toole,
Fire Control Technical Staff,
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area.

The University of California Cooperative Extension introduced a calendar and guidebook: the SAFE (Sustainable And fire-Safe) Landscapes 2008 Calendar and Guidebook. The guidelines assist homeowners to create and maintain fire-safe, environmentally-friendly landscapes in what scientists call “the wildland-urban interface” or the area where urban and suburban development meets native, natural vegetated wilderness. In Southern California, fire is a part of the natural environment. Homes are never completely protected from wildland fire; and if one lives in a high fire hazard severity zone in the wildland-urban interface, it is not a question of if a fire occurs, but when. Cooperative Extension’s SAFE Landscapes Calendar and Guidebook takes residents through steps to keep properties fire-safe throughout the year.

FEBRUARY 12, 2008 – 7:30 - 9:30PM
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA

TEJON-TEHACHAPI PARK: A VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S NEWEST PARK

Speaker: Ileene Anderson,
Staff Biologist, Center for Biological Diversity

Sixty miles north of Los Angeles lies a quintessential piece of classic California landscape – Tejon Ranch. These 270,000 acres are located at the convergence of four ecoregions, which results in unsurpassed diversity of plants and animals. Currently at a crossroads, the fate of the ranch will be decided in the next few years – a series of suburban sprawl new cities, or a new public park that can be enjoyed by all. Please join us for an overview of the numerous rare species that currently live on Tejon and things you can do to support a new park!

Spring Wildflower Show
March 22 & 23, 2008

Programs are free to the public. Refreshments will be served. For directions, see Calendar of Events on page 3.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Happy 2008. On behalf of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter I would like to thank you for the terrific support all of you have given the California Native Plant Society in 2007. Without your attendance at events such as the plant sale, the wildflower show, monthly programs, hikes, fieldtrips and weed wars we could not exist as an organization. Many of you show support through donations and environmental activism. There is an old saying from the 1960s attributed to Eldridge Cleaver, “What we’re saying today is that you’re either part of the solution or you’re part of the problem.” In truth, CNPS members are major contributors to solving problems in the southern California region.

In order to sustain our strong organizational presence in this region, we need you to consider donating some of your valuable volunteer time to CNPS activities. Yes, we need you to take a leadership role for a few hours a month. If that sounds scary or difficult, it isn't. Here are some tasks that would help out the Chapter:

Newsletter layout call or email Steve Hartman (818-881-3706; naturebase@aol.com) for further details; we supply the copy, you format the copy for the printer. Newsletter comes out 6 times a year.

Whale Festival and other tabling events this year. The Whale Festival is on March 9, 2008; we have one person to help meet and greet the public and give out the CNPS message but need another. We also need help at other events to give out the CNPS message. Call or email me at snowdy.dodson@csun.edu or 818-782-9346.

Weed Wars We need more help with weeding in several lovely locations in the Santa Monica Mountains. In 2008 we will be working in burned areas such as Solstice Canyon and Malibu Bluffs Park. With your help we can eradicate invasive weeds and allow the natives to come back stronger than ever. Call Jo Kitz: 818-591-1701 x203 or email: jkitz@mountainstrust.org. Our weed wars happen once a month for a few hours.

Hike Leaders We need more people to lead hikes; we will add several hikes in Spring 2008. We all want to see the fire-following wildflowers that are the silver lining to the wildfire cloud, and we need more hike leaders to carry this off. Call or email me for details.

Save the Date
March 2, 2008 Fungus Foray and Members Picnic
March 22 & 23, 2008 Spring Wildflower Show, Malibu Bluffs Park

– Snowdy Dodson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fire Symposium Proceedings Available

The proceedings from the Los Angeles / San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council's summer seminar on post-fire recovery at Griffith Park ("The Fires This Time") have been published in the latest edition of WatershedWise. If you were able to take part in the symposium you will find that many of the articles are expanded from the speaker presentations. Find the reports online at www.lasgrwc.org/symposia.html.

CNPS Conservation Conference Proceedings Now Available Online

The "proceedings" from the CNPS Conservation Conference in Santa Cruz (September, 2007) have now been posted on the CNPS website: <http://cnps.org/cnps/conservation/conference/2007/index.php>. There also is a link to the "proceedings" located on the Conservation web page. PDF versions of the PowerPoint presentations also are available for download at the "proceedings" site.

Wildflower Show and Wildflower Walks Easter Weekend, March 22-23, 10am-4pm Malibu Bluffs Park

Native wildflowers gathered from botanical and home gardens are on display. Plants, books, posters and more are for sale. At 1pm each day, California Native Plant Society members will lead a 2-hour guided walk around the Bluffs and down to the sea. Expect to see fire-following wildflowers as native plants (and weeds) recover from the January 2007 wildfire.

Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz Set for May 30-31

The National Geographic Society and the National Park Service are organizing a BioBlitz in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area on May 30-31, 2008. A BioBlitz is a unique combination of taxonomic inventory, public outreach, and science education. Teams of about 8-10 volunteers, each led by a biologist with particular taxonomic expertise, go into the field to find, identify and map as many species as possible within a 24-hour period (noon to noon). While the inventory is not systematic, it can nevertheless yield valuable biogeographic information. Recent BioBlitzes, for example, have revealed new undescribed species of arthropods and bacteria in the middle of city parks. New county records and other indices of species distribution are common. Apart from the inventory, other activities include presentations about biodiversity, structured field exercises for K-12 classes, demonstrations of field technology, and exhibits ranging from global biodiversity to local nature photography. These activities will occur mostly at the base camp at Paramount Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, but also at peripheral sites around the mountains. All told, a BioBlitz is a wonderful opportunity for scientists to meet each other, collect in the field, learn about possibilities for research in National Parks, and educate and inspire the public through hands-on field work. The 2008 event will be the second annual BioBlitz and is part of a series that is being conducted in different National Park Service units around the country for the next decade. This year, National Park Service is joined by California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as part of the team. All interested persons are encouraged to participate. The success of an event like this depends greatly on the knowledge and enthusiasm of trained scientists. Your participation in this festive "species marathon" will help make this a valuable celebration of biodiversity, and will contribute immeasurably to educating and inspiring the next generation of biologists and stewards of California's natural heritage. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please send an email to bioblitz@ngs.org. Please indicate in particular if there are specific roles, like team leader, that interest you most. Hopefully, all team leaders will be confirmed by mid-January.

DAVE MASON THANKED FOR CHAPTER WEB MASTER SERVICES

The California Native Plant Society, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter extends its thanks to Dave Mason for his many years of invaluable volunteer service in creating, hosting, editing and troubleshooting the Chapter web site. Due to his expertise, our Chapter had a vital and functioning web site long before this was the norm for a local, non-profit group. As a result, the Chapter activities became open to the outside world, and we were better able to further our mission to increase the understanding, appreciation and conservation of California's native plants. Dave's dedication is to be commended. We value his skills and energy and trust that he will continue to support the Chapter's activities, mission, and programs. We look forward to working with him in the future.

CNPS Special Election

We will be holding a special election in January 2008 to fill three positions on the Board of Directors that were not filled in the 2007 general election. One vacancy is the Board President. The other vacancies are two seats for board members. The positions that need to be filled in this special election are President of the Board (2008 to 2009 term) along with two board members (both 2008 to 2009 terms). These positions are open to any CNPS member. To become a candidate, it is necessary to complete a nomination petition, including providing the endorsement by a chapter or endorsement by 5 CNPS members, and submit it by fax (530-295-4997) or email (britting@earthlink.net) to Sue Britting prior to January 15. Candidates who miss the January 15 deadline can run as write-in candidates.

ARTS DAY LA MARCH 8

Arts Day LA March 8, 2008 on the UCLA campus is a day-long program for those interested in careers in the fields of landscape architecture among other pursuits and is Sponsored by UCLA Extension, Dept. of the Arts, Landscape Architecture Program. More information will be posted at <http://artsdayla.com/> as the event gets closer.

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

A new rating system for sustainable landscapes is being developed and your input is needed! The comment period for the Sustainable Sites Initiative's "Preliminary Report on the Standards and Guidelines for Sustainable Sites" ends January 11, 2008. Please consider lending your support to this very worthwhile effort. See www.sustainable-sites.org/report.html.

CNPS JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Conservation Program Director

The California Native Plant Society is seeking a full-time Conservation Program Director. This position requires a highly organized and visionary individual to lead, develop and implement the Conservation Program. The Conservation Director works with CNPS volunteers and staff to develop and promote policies relevant to plant conservation in California. The Conservation Director also participates in public outreach and fundraising to support the Society's conservation goals. The Conservation Director reports directly to the Executive Director. See www.cnps.org for more info.

NEWHALL RANCH LANDMARK VILLAGE FINAL EIR HEARING

Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission will consider and may certify this Final EIR at a hearing on Jan. 9, 2008 at 9 a.m. in Room 150 at 320 West Temple St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Call Daniel Fierros at 213-974-6461 to confirm. Copies of the Final EIR are available for viewing at Newhall County, Valencia County, and Canyon Country Libraries as well as at the Dept. of Regional Planning Impact Analysis Section, room 1348 at the 320 West Temple address. Our CNPS Chapter opposes this project as it is a threat to sensitive plants and rare plant communities along the Santa Clara River.

PROGRAMS

TUES 1/8 7:30-9:30pm

*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*FIRE-SAFE LANDSCAPE
PRESENTATION

Speaker: Marty O'Toole,
Fire Control Technical Staff, Santa Monica
Mountains National Recreation Area.

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 16575 Ventura Blvd. Encino, 91436. 818-461-8400

TUES 2/12 7:30-9:30pm

*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*TEJON-TEHACHAPI PARK:
A VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S
NEWEST PARK

Speaker: Ileene Anderson,
Center for Biological Diversity

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

NO JANUARY BOARD MEETING

TUES 2/5

7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Jo Kitz. Chapter members are invited. 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills. (818) 348-5910

HIKES AND RESTORATION

THUR 1/10 8:30am

Caballero Canyon, Tarzana

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 lilacs and currants) add color to the canyon. Bring water and snack. Meet at the lower trailhead. (818) 345-6749 3hrs.

SUN 1/13 9am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Weed War and Habitat Restoration Remove invasive plants and noxious weeds to restore parkland. Bring lunch, water, and gloves; credit for community service hours. *Reservations required.* (818)348-5910. 4hrs

THUR 1/24 10am

Cold Creek Preserve

Cold Creek Meanderings Milk maids, the first sign of spring, bloom along the shaded glens of Cold Creek on this easy 3-mile walk. We will look for other signs of our winter/spring season as the trails pass under oak canopies, through grasslands and mountain lilac tunnels. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Lower Stunt High Trailhead. (818) 348-5910. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 1/27 10am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea One year ago, most of the park burned, so this walk will view the recovery of native wildflowers (and many weeds); enjoy wave action on the beach and hope to see a whale migrating or a sea lion rollicking. 2hrs. (310) 472-0624

SAT 2/9 9am

Cold Creek Preserve

Second Saturday Interpretive Walk: "Flowers and Fungus" Spring is here with mountain lilacs and milk maids all in bloom; forms of fungus push through the duff if the rains have come. *Reservations required.* (818) 591-1701 x203. 3hrs. Sponsored by Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 2/10 9am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Weed War and Habitat Restoration Eleven months ago, the park burned. Warring against the non-native plants (weeds) began immediately, but there is much to do to restore ecological balance. Bring lunch, water, and gloves. Community service credit. *Reservations required.* (818) 348-5910. 4hrs.

THUR 2/21 8:30am

Caballero Canyon, Tarzana

Chaparral Chatter will hike up the canyon appreciating the beauty of California chaparral and oak woodlands, view the expanse of city and mountains from vistas on Mulholland, and enjoy nearby trails in Topanga State Park. This walk stops for wildflowers. Bring water and snack. Meet at the lower trailhead. (818) 345-6749 3hrs.

SUN 2/24 10am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Ten months ago, the park burned, so this walk will view the recovery of native plants and wildflowers (and many weeds); enjoy wave action on the beach and hope to see a whale migrating or a sea lion rollicking. (818) 782-9346 2hrs.

THUR 2/28 10am

Cold Creek Preserve

Cold Creek Meanderings Spring and winter come together as early wildflowers burst into bloom. Pass under oak canopies, through mountain lilac tunnels and across open meadows for 3-5 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Lower Stunt High Trailhead. 3hrs. Co-sponsored by the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 3/2 10am

Location to be determined

Chapter Picnic Save this date for a fun picnic with members of our chapter. More info in the next newsletter or call the chapter info line at (818) 881-3706 after Feb. 15.

THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley 91352 - (818) 768-1802 - www.theodorepayne.org

California Native Plant Horticulture

January 5, Saturday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Taught by Lili Singer

If you're new to natives or just need to review the basics, this class offers a wealth of information on the wonderful world of gardening with California flora. You'll discover what a "native plant" is, why natives are valuable, what is a plant community, and planting requirements, establishment, planting details, pruning, irrigation, maintenance and where to see and buy native plants. Space is limited and classes fill very quickly – so make your reservations in early!

Please call (818) 768-1802 to register in advance.

Fee: \$35 for members, \$45 for nonmembers. Cancellation policy for all classes – No refunds will be issued for cancellations made less than 7 days in advance of the class.



LOS ANGELES • SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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VOLUME 28 Number 1
JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2008

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TOYON Edited by Steven L. Hartman
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THANKS

CHAPTER RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Send check to David Hollombe, 6223 San Vicente Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048 or to CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Current CNPS memberships are:
Student, Limited Income \$25,
Individual \$45,
Family, Group or Library \$75.
Make checks payable to CNPS.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS TO TOYON ONLY. For members of other CNPS chapters, send \$5 to David Hollombe.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Write or phone David Hollombe (323) 934-0332. Include your e-mail address. Be sure to notify State CNPS Office, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

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