



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

September 9, 2008 – 7:30 - 9:30pm  
Sepulveda Garden Center  
Encino

News from the Weed Wars:  
Successes, Failures, and  
Weeds to Watch in the  
Santa Monica Mountains

**Speaker: Christy Brigham,  
National Park Service**

Christy Brigham, restoration ecologist for the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains, will give an overview of recent efforts to remove weeds from rare plant habitats, restore important native habitats, and protect native plants in the Santa Monica Mountains. Christy will provide highlights from several projects and will also discuss up and coming weed problems (yellow star thistle, onionweed, and others!) as well as community efforts to combat weed impacts and protect our incredibly important Mediterranean ecosystem (including CNPS's own weed warriors and our two local Weed Management Areas).

October 14, 2008 – 7:30 - 9:30pm  
First United Methodist Church  
Santa Monica

Beautiful Flowers  
Growing in Our  
Spectacular Backyard

**Speaker: Tony Valois, Ph.D.,  
Santa Monica Mountains  
National Recreation Area**

Tony began compiling a photo library of plants of the Santa Monica Mountains years ago. The initial goal was to showcase the more dramatic wildflowers, but goals gave way to passion. Now his library encompasses about 600 plants, photography of more technical plant parts and the ability to do plant searches based on general plant characteristics. Tony's presentation will showcase some of the most spectacular flowers and show how to access and search for plants in the plant library. If you are a gardener planning a garden or like to hike in our spectacular backyard, the Santa Monica Mountains, come to this program for ideas and information!

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

– by Snowdy Dodson, Chapter President

We've been hearing much news concerning the loss of pollinators from the ecology (for more information see <http://www.fws.gov/pollinators/>). However, a recent book (*Bringing Nature Home: How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens* by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Pr., 2007, isbn: 9780881928549) expands the scope of the problem by highlighting the dangerous loss of all types of native insects (pollinators or not) from our local environment. Tallamy urges us to promote biodiversity by introducing native plants in our own backyards and, though his slant is for the native plants on the east coast of the U.S. where he resides and gardens, the basic principles ring true for California. He points out that native insects have evolved and adapted to eat native plants and will ignore non-native plants as part of their diet.

*continued on page 7*

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you all could tell (thank you for the many, many phone calls and emails), the last edition of the TOYON was printed with the wrong font. I assure you that this won't happen again, but the error wasn't discovered until it was too late to re-print.

And it was a very nice issue, with great photos (that you could not appreciate due to the printing) and interesting stories (that you were unable to read).

If you have access to the Internet, please go to our chapter website and click newsletters, and you can download a .pdf file of the July - August newsletter and see the photos in color!

If you would prefer a printed copy, send me an email, or leave a message on our chapter phone (818) 881-3706, or send me a postcard requesting a printed copy and I'll mail it to you (6117 Reseda Blvd., Suite H, Reseda, CA 91335).

SORRY! Sincerely, Steve Hartman

**TOPANGA DOCENT TRAINING****Saturday, September 20, 9:30 a.m.**

Become a docent naturalist! 34th annual docent training offered by Topanga Canyon Docents. Learn the natural history of the Santa Monica Mountains and how to share this knowledge with others. Ten sessions led by notable experts will be held on Saturdays until Nov. 22. \$55 fee includes membership and continuing learning opportunities.

Information: Beverly Weil 818-758-1964.

---

**WATERSHED CONFERENCE**

Building a Healthier San Gabriel River Watershed

September 16th and 17th, 2008 Grace Black Auditorium, El Monte, CA 3130 N. Tyler Ave, El Monte, CA 91731. For conference details and the agenda, visit us at [www.lasgrwc.org/healthywatershed](http://www.lasgrwc.org/healthywatershed) or contact Deborah Glaser 213-229-9953 email: [Deborah@lasgrwc.org](mailto:Deborah@lasgrwc.org) to register.

---

The City of Santa Clarita Presents....

**THE 14th ANNUAL RIVER RALLY  
2008 RIVER CLEAN-UP  
& ENVIRONMENTAL EXPO**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2008  
8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Location: Wiley Canyon Road –  
off the Via Princessa Bridge  
(East of Orchard Village Road)

Help maintain a portion of the Santa Clara River – the last natural river in Southern California! We will provide gloves, trash bags, snacks, and special giveaways for participating. Visit the Environmental Expo to learn more about sustainability issues including: recycling, air quality, water conservation, pollution prevention, open space preservation, and more! Ride your bicycle to River Rally and let us watch your bike for you. A free bike valet service will be provided courtesy of LA County Bicycle Coalition, so your bicycles are monitored while you participate! Please remember, NO PETS are allowed. Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes (NO SANDALS) and appropriate clothing for walking in the riverbed, sunscreen, and a hat. Carpooling, biking and walking are highly encouraged as parking space is limited. For more information contact Casey Bingham at 661-286-4039 or email to [cbingham@santa-clarita.com](mailto:cbingham@santa-clarita.com).

**COASTWEEKS**

COASTWEEKS is a three week celebration of our coast and waterways, taking place September 20<sup>th</sup> through October 12<sup>th</sup>. The California Coastal Commission has created an online calendar of events which you can find linked from [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org), or directly at [www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/coastweeks/coastweeks.html). There are currently many events to choose from including our CNPS Chapter Weed Wars and the Bluffs Ramble to the Sea as well activities such as kayak tours, speakers, backpacking trips, festivals, concerts, and much more. COASTWEEKS starts with California Coastal Cleanup Day on September 20<sup>th</sup>, a massive volunteer effort with 60,000 Californians working to clean up our environment. Show you care about our coasts by coming out for these events. Our chapter hosts field trips Sept. 21 and Oct. 5 (see page 3 for details).

---

**ECO-FRIENDLY MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL**

Oct. 9-13 at 6522 Hollywood Blvd.

On Oct. 11 the media arts festival will feature eco-friendly art and activities. Contact [janet@freewaves.org](mailto:janet@freewaves.org)

---

**SUSTAINABLE SUNDAY**

at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum

Sept. 21, 2008, 10 am to 4 pm.

Event will focus on land use and conservation in the first of an 8 month series of programs on sustainability for Museum attendees. See [www.nhm.org](http://www.nhm.org) for details.

---

**GARDEN MAKING CALIFORNIA STYLE –  
SATURDAY, OCT. 11, MONTEREY**

Explore the opportunities and constraints of garden making California-style at Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies VI: California! Saturday, October 11, 2008. This one day symposium is co-sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* magazine and The Mediterranean Garden Society.

David Fross, founder of Native Sons nursery in Arroyo Grande, will present a morning session entitled “An Overview of California Landscape and Flora” followed by “The History of California Gardens” presented by Russell Beatty, Professor at UC Berkeley. An afternoon tour of gardens in Carmel and the Carmel Valley will be followed with an evening lecture by Bart O'Brien, from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and editor of *Fremontia*, entitled “Garden Jewels from the California Flora.” For further details or to register for this exciting event please visit the symposium website at <http://regonline.com/medskiesvi> or call the Pacific Horticulture office in Berkeley at 510-849-1627.

## PROGRAMS

**TUES 9/9 7:30-9:30pm***Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*News from the  
Weed Wars**Speaker: Christy Brigham**

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 10/14 7:30-9:30pm***First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*Beautiful Flowers Growing  
in Our Spectacular Backyard**Speaker: Tony Valois**

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 9/2 7pm**

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Halli Mason in Tarzana. Chapter members are invited. Call for directions. 818-345-6749

**TUES 10/7 7pm**

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at the home of Snowy Dodson at 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, 91406. Chapter members are invited. 818-782-9346

**Chapter Garden Party  
September 27**

All chapter members are invited to our annual end-of-summer garden party hosted by a chapter member in Tarzana. Make your reservation by sending in the form on page 7.

## HIKES AND RESTORATION

**SUN 9/14 9am***Malibu Creek State Park*

Oak Savannah Restoration/  
Commemorative Oaks We'll weed and water oak tree seedlings and native bunch grasses so they can survive this drought year and restore life, beauty and habitat. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701x203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with State Parks and Mountains Restoration Trust (MRT).

**SUN 9/21 9am***Santa Monica Mountains*

Weed Wars Joins Coast Week The beach and bluff parks are lovely places to get rid of weeds so wildflowers will bloom. (Community service credit.) Call for location. *Reservations required.* 818-348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored with State Parks and Mountains Restoration Trust.

**SAT 9/27 9am***Peter Strauss Ranch*

Wetland Restoration Day After meeting at PSR, we will remove yellow star thistle, mustard and other weeds to improve habitats in the La Sierra Preserve. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with Mountains Restoration Trust.

**SUN 9/28 10am***Malibu Bluffs Park*

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Walk 2-miles on trails with great views, dip your toes into the bay, look for dolphins, sea lions and observe the fire-following recovery of native plants. 2hrs 818-348-5910

**SUN 10/5 9am***Santa Monica Mountains*

Weed Wars Joins Coast Week The beach and bluff parks are lovely places to get rid of weeds so wildflowers will bloom. (Community service credit.) Call for location. *Reservations required.* 818-348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored with State Parks and MRT.

**THUR 10/16 8:30am***Caballero Canyon*

Chaparral Chatter After a hot, dry spring and summer the chaparral eagerly anticipates winter rains. Let's explore the amazing survival techniques and plant adaptations of this unique plant community, found only in 5 places on earth. Leisurely hike through Caballero Canyon in the central section of the Santa Monica Mountains; meet lower trailhead; bring water and snack. Heavy rain cancels. RSVP 818-345-6749. 3hrs.

**SUN 10/19 9am***Malibu Creek State Park, Tapia Unit*

Weed Wars Is Recruiting Volunteers Weed warriors bring wildlife back to parklands by removing invasive non-native plants that have destroyed our bird's and animal's habitat. Weeds near streams in Tapia will be removed to let native roses, oaks and elderberries grow back in. Bring lunch, water and gloves. Community service credit given. *Reservations required.* 818-348-5910. 4hrs.

**SUN 10/26 9:30am***Malibu Bluffs Park*

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Ramble two miles around the coastal park on trails with views of mountains and sea; walk on the beach. Meet in the Bluffs Park parking lot. 2hrs. 818-345-6749

## NATIVE PLANT SALE OCTOBER 11 &amp; 12, 2008

Fall is the time to get your native plants into the ground to take advantage of those promised winter rains. Planted in the fall, natives often need little water once they are established and do not require fertilizers...but you still have to prune!

To make a wide selection of California native plants available to a broad audience, the Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society will have - as it has for over twenty years - its Annual Fall California Native Plant Sale.

The event will take place on October 11 and 12, 2008, at the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., between Hayvenhurst and Balboa Blvds., in Encino. We will be open both days from 10 am to 4 pm. Knowledgeable native plant experts will help you select the right plants for your property. Attend free daily lectures on native gardening.

We need volunteers on Friday (for set up 3pm to 6pm), Saturday and Sunday (from 8am to 5pm). Please contact Halli Mason at 818-345-6749 to volunteer.

## Growing Natives: Celebrating California's Beauty in Dry Times

March 28, 2009 - Lafayette Community Center, Lafayette  
 March 29, 2009 - Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley  
 Co-sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture*, the California Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden

We are pleased to present a 2-day program of talks and workshops exploring the possibilities for creating beautiful waterwise gardens with plants native to California.

For more information, please visit [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org), [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org), and [www.pacifichorticulture.org](http://www.pacifichorticulture.org)

---

## Reyes Sacks Plastic Bags In L.A.

*Apparently the images in a previous issue of TOYON showing the plastic bags hanging on the native vegetation in the L.A. River was the key to getting plastic bags banned!*

City Council unanimously approves Reyes' motion to ban plastic bags in City by 2010, and polystyrene in City facilities by July 1, 2009. Councilmember Ed P. Reyes' motion to ban polystyrene food containers in all City facilities beginning July 1, 2009 was unanimously approved by the City Council.

The City Council, by a 13-0 vote, also approved an amendment introduced by Reyes today that bans plastic bags by July 1, 2010, if the State has not imposed a fee of at least 25 cents by then. "Plastic bags have been the graffiti of the L.A. River for decades," said Reyes, who chairs the L.A. River Ad Hoc Committee. The plan requires officials to replace food containers made of polystyrene – commonly known by the brand Styrofoam – at city-owned facilities such as Los Angeles International Airport, public libraries, the Convention Center and City-sponsored events.

"We've gotten to a point where we need to act as a city, where we can have real results. We're trying to do it in a way where we can educate and inform the public of what we're doing," Reyes said. "It's going to take time to change." After the citywide ban of plastic bags July 2010, consumers will have to use their own canvas bags or pay 25 cents for a paper, compostable or biodegradable bag. Of that fee, 3 percent would go to the retailer, 3 percent will go to the state, and the rest of the money will go back to the city to fund an education campaign.

The plastic bag and polystyrene bans complement the ongoing Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan, spearheaded by Reyes, which proposes transforming 32 miles of the concrete-lined River into a greenbelt linking communities.

---

**Southern California Botanists 34th Annual Symposium**  
**Saturday, October 18, 2008, 9am to 4:30pm**  
 Ruby Gerontology Center, CSU Fullerton, 800 N. College Blvd.

### **PROBLEM PLANT GROUPS: Difficult to understand and Identify.**

Learn about grasses, *Delphinium*, *Gilia*, oaks, *Cryptantha*, *Camissonia* and *Ceanothus* by noted experts. Early registration \$35 (by October 3, 2008) – \$45 at the door. Symposium fee includes one-year membership to SCB, six issues of Leaflets and two issues of Crossosoma. Books, T-shirts, and equipment will be available for purchase during the symposium. See [www.socalbot.org](http://www.socalbot.org) for more info.

## Settlement Could Bring New Habitat Protections to Two Southern California Plants Threatened With Extinction

In the wake of a legal challenge by the Center for Biological Diversity, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed on June 18 to reconsider critical habitat designations for two rare southern California plants threatened with extinction. The current designations would have protected only a small fraction of each plant's scant remaining habitat.

Said Ileene Anderson, a biologist with the Center for Biological Diversity: "These critical habitat designations were blueprints for extinction rather than recovery another example of the Bush administration's attempts to undermine legal protections for imperiled species. They should never have seen the light of day. The Fish and Wildlife Service knew the designations wouldn't hold up in court, but they're doing the right thing by revisiting the designation."

The spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*) and the thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), both on the brink of extinction, are found only in southern California, where much of their range has already been destroyed.

On October 18, 2005, the Fish and Wildlife Service issued final critical habitat for the spreading navarretia, designating only 652 acres for the diminutive plant while excluding 18,747 acres that the plant also occupies. The spreading navarretia is a tiny annual plant that grows in vernal pools seasonal ponds that host rare plants, insects, and fairy shrimp. The navarretia is only known from Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Diego counties in California in areas where these rare vernal pools occur. Much of its habitat has been destroyed by urban development, off-road vehicles, water diversions, grazing, and plowing for fire clearance and agricultural conversion. Only 30 small populations are left on the planet.

On December 13, 2005, the Fish and Wildlife Service issued final critical habitat for the thread-leaved brodiaea, designating only 597 acres for the clay-loving lily while excluding 4,093 acres that the lily also occupies. The thread-leaved brodiaea, a lily, thrives in heavy clay soils and is only known from Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego counties. Much of its habitat has been destroyed by urban development, off-road vehicles, grazing, and plowing for fire clearance and agricultural conversion. The number of remaining populations is tough to evaluate, because the brodiaea only puts its leaves above ground in prime growing years, but estimates range from 25 to about 80 populations on the planet.

The designations for both plants followed the Bush administration's pattern of devaluing protection, resulting in scientifically indefensible designations favoring development at the cost of recovery.

"The public will once again have the opportunity to submit hard science to the feds and this time, hopefully, science rather than politics will drive the designation of habitat that is critical for these species survival," said Anderson.

For more information on the species please visit [www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/plants/spreading\\_navarretia/index.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/plants/spreading_navarretia/index.html) and [www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/plants/thread-leaved\\_brodiaea/index.html](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/species/plants/thread-leaved_brodiaea/index.html).

## Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project In Progress In the Sepulveda Basin

Bull Creek is a short stretch of stream that emerges from flood control channels and tunnels just south of Victory Blvd. east of Balboa Blvd, and runs straight into the Los Angeles River. Once an “open” channel, it has been overtaken by giant reed and other non-native trees, degraded to the point where the Army Corp and the City of Los Angeles have developed a restoration plan, incorporating a key idea suggested by Steve Hartman, a member of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee since its inception in 1990.

Steve suggested that an “oxbow” be excavated (a “C”-shaped side channel) to allow water to flow around a new island to the Los Angeles River. This idea was adopted, and the Project will restore native riparian and upland habitat to the area directly west of Bull Creek, and north of the entrance road that leads to Lake Balboa in Beilenson Park. Restoration will provide additional forage, nesting, cover and resting opportunities for wildlife indigenous to the region.

The Project will develop about 28 acres of aquatic, riparian and native upland habitat. In addition to the oxbow, the project will construct bridges to provide pedestrian and maintenance access, connect to pedestrian trails on both sides of Bull Creek, and serve as overlooks into the habitat areas; will release reclaimed water from Lake Balboa into the channel near the oxbow to enhance the existing seasonal flow; and install a debris collector at the upstream extent of the project area to prevent unwanted debris from entering the restored habitat area.

There was a groundbreaking ceremony in February of this year, but the actual work on the ground did not commence until the middle of summer. The project will probably take a year to complete. Below, Bull Creek as it looked in the late 1980's.



## Vegetation Rapid Assessment Workshop In San Diego

Please join the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for a Vegetation Rapid Assessment workshop hosted by Cabrillo National Monument and Torrey Pines State Park, in San Diego County. This 3-day course is a combination of lecture and field exercises in fine-scale vegetation sampling.

Instructors are Todd Keeler-Wolf, CDFG Senior Vegetation Ecologist, Jennifer Buck CNPS Vegetation Ecologist, Anne Klein, CDFG Environmental Scientist, Theresa Johnson, CNPS Vegetation Science Program staff, Josie Crawford Plant Science Training Coordinator.

Cost: \$450 CNPS members; \$475 non-members

Participants Will Learn the Following:

Applications of fine-scale vegetation sampling, classification and mapping; How vegetation sampling is used for mapping projects; How to collect data using the CNPS Rapid Assessment protocol; How to document the rare natural communities occurring at Torrey Pines; How vegetation types and attributes can be mapped; How vegetation information fits into County General Management Plans, CEQA, HCP's, NCCPs, etc.

For full details and registration go to  
<http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>

---

## Mouth of Topanga Creek to be Restored

According to an article by Tami Abdollah in the August 10, 2008 edition of the Los Angeles Times, the state will remove a massive berm along the Topanga waterway that hinders steelhead trout's spawning. The 12-acre project to remove the berm and some non-native plants, and restore the riparian system with native plants will cost about \$3 million.

Natives such as willows, mule fat, alder, cottonwoods, sycamores and oaks will be planted. Non-natives slated for removal include the highly flammable giant reed, jacaranda, palms, and others. The area will remain open to the public while workers restore it.

Once the work is completed, it is hoped that the creek will run year-round and the area will look as it did in the early 1900's "Restoring this area is the work of a lifetime," said Suzanne Good, a senior environmental scientist with the California Department of Parks and Recreation and a long-time CNPS member. "It will not be done when I retire," said Suzanne.

---

### Useful Web Links

[www.weedwatch.org](http://www.weedwatch.org)

[www.teamarundo.org](http://www.teamarundo.org)

[www.wildfirezone.org](http://www.wildfirezone.org)

[www.fws.gov/pollinators](http://www.fws.gov/pollinators)

[www.sepulvedabasinwildlife.org](http://www.sepulvedabasinwildlife.org)

The Weed Warrior  
Annual Tally Through  
July 2008: 957 Hours

LA/SMM CNPS – 559 hours

TreePeople collaboration – 280 hours

Mike O'Brien at Pocket Parks – 118 hours

Total Hours to July 2008 – 957 hours\*

\*this does not include the Sepulveda Basin and Caballero Canyon or other off-site weedings, e.g., Griffith Park.

CNPS has many under-cover warriors throughout Los Angeles County whose time is unreported but whose tasks are equally important. I would be happy to add their hours to the chapter totals if their sites and hours are forwarded to me at [jkitz@mountainstrust.org](mailto:jkitz@mountainstrust.org).

Parks worked:

Malibu Bluffs Park – 4 times

Malibu Creek State Park, Tapia Unit – 2 times

Malibu Creek State Park,

CNPS Commemorative Oaks Grove – 1 time

**Thousands of non-native invasive plants species destroyed!**

The Bluffs Park has been our focus since the wildfire in January 2007. A wildfire will set the resurgence of native plants back as it did at the Bluffs Park. In areas that seemed to have stabilized after years of weeding, once again castor bean, the mustards, radishes, eucalyptus, and false caper came back in blizzard numbers. The areas that were cleared of these pests rewarded us with a bloom of native wildflowers hairy lupine, succulent lupine, sun cups, popcorn flowers, ground pinks, blue-eyed grass, soap plant, California poppies, morning glories, purple needlegrass, etc. That first year after a fire is the all-



**LA/SMM Chapter CNPS Weed Warriors Extraordinaire!**  
From left, Sid Mendel, Mike O'Brien, Jo Kitz, David Hollombe,  
John Kuiper and Henry Carlton  
(photo from December 2005)

important weeding time that allows the natives to produce large quantities of seeds and the perennials to achieve maximum growth. *Encelia californica* (bush sunflower) and *Eriogonum cinereum* (ashy-leaf buckwheat), where they weren't whacked to the ground in the mistaken practice of "brush clearance," have covered the slopes above Malibu Road and are proving themselves to be excellent weed fighters.

The non-natives removed from the Bluffs in 2008 include castor bean, tree tobacco, sweet fennel, giant cane, false caper, plantain, annual mustard, Mediterranean mustard, fountain grass, eucalyptus, curly dock, umbrella sedge, prickly lettuce, *Myoporum*, radish, sweet clover, onion weed, garland daisy, cat's ears, etc., etc., etc.

By Jo Kitz

Theodore Payne Foundation

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley 91352 - (818) 768-1802 - [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org)

Summer Schedule: Nursery and Store Open Thursday – Saturday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Fall Schedule starts Oct 14.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND CLASSES**

**Fall Festival** - TPF's biggest sale of the year offers hundreds of different species and cultivars -- just in time for fall planting!

Friday-Saturday, October 3-4, 8:30am-4:30pm - TPF members only

Friday-Saturday, October 10-11, 8:30am-4:30pm - Discounts to all!

**The TPF Skinny on Seeds with Kathy Parenteau**

**Sat, Sep 20, 10am – 12pm**

Learn how the Foundation handles seed: from collection to processing, storage and documentation. First Kathy will take you onto TPF grounds to harvest seed. Next, you'll return to the Seed Room for more hands-on experience. This class prepares you for harvesting and storing seed from your own native plant garden.

Fee: \$20 members; \$30 non-members

**Autumn in the Native Garden with Louise Gonzalez**

**Sat, Oct 18, 9am – 11am**

This brand new class – taught by TPF's own nursery manager – begins with a lecture on how native plants function and ends with a walk through the grounds for close examination of trees, shrubs, perennials and more. Wear comfortable shoes, a hat and sunscreen. Bring water.

Fee: \$30 members, \$40 non-members

## President's Message

*Continued from page 1*

He shows how we must begin supporting resources at the bottom of the food chain by introducing plants that will be eaten by insects and their larvae which in turn will be eaten by birds and other creatures up the chain.

Tallamy backs up his theories with compelling scientific evidence sited in an extensive list of references. I know that even in my not so perfect yard that adding even one more native plant has made a difference in the numbers of insects and birds I see there. The upcoming plant sale on Oct. 11 & 12 is a perfect opportunity to buy a plant (or two) and get more natives into our urban backyards. Those without yards can investigate the joys of container gardening; and we all must continue to advocate for planting native plants in our public parks, school gardens and open spaces and to push for the preservation of remaining open wild space in California.

On the space preservation front, I am pleased to report that CALTRANS decided not to build a freeway onramp through the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. This decision came about largely due to the overwhelming response and input from CNPS and other environmental organizations such as the Audubon Society and the Sierra Club. Our Chapter wrote letters and spoke at

hearings in order to voice our opposition to the destruction of wild habitat that would have been caused by several of the alternatives for changes to the 405/101 interchange. Thank you to all who submitted input on this issue. The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee has launched a new website <http://www.sepulvedabasinwildlife.org/> to inform the public about the value of the wildlife preserve.

The Tejon Ranch settlement with the Sierra Club and Audubon California (and others) has been touted as a tremendous environmental triumph; and there is no question that we all support the potential of getting 240,000 acres into conservation. But should this be done in conjunction with allowing a huge development (Centennial and Tejon Mountain Village) up against an environmentally sensitive area? Some feel as do I that the "deal" given to Tejon Ranch is approximately the same as what would have been required by current laws. Do we want to see 26,000 homes in place of the wildflower fields along Interstate 5? Not a happy thought.

# CHAPTER GARDEN PARTY 2008

Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter Members and Friends  
are cordially invited to our Annual Dinner,  
**Saturday, September 27, 2008 at 5 p.m.**  
at the home of Halli Mason in Tarzana.

### RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

please cut along this line

**Reservation Form**  
**RSVP before or on September 19, 2008**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many Dinner Reservations @ \$15 per person? \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to CNPS. Mail to CNPS, 6117 Reseda Blvd. Suite H, Reseda, CA 91335

Check here if you need directions



LOS ANGELES ·  
 SANTAMONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
 CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
 15811 Leadwell Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Van Nuys, CA  
 PERMIT Number 622

PLANT SALE  
 OCT 11 & 12  
 Sepulveda  
 Garden  
 Center  
 Volunteers Needed!

TIME VALUE

*Toyon* VOLUME 28 NUMBER 5  
 SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2008  
 INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Front Page**  
 Sept.-Oct. Programs  
 President's Message

**Page 2**  
 Announcements

**Page 3**  
 Calendar of  
 Chapter Activities,

**Page 4**  
 Native Plant Symposium,  
 Goodbye Plastic Bags,  
 Rare Plants

**Page 5**  
 Bull Creek and  
 Topanga Creek  
 Restoration

**Page 6**  
 Weed Warriors

**Page 7**  
 Garden Party Invitation

-----  
**Chapter Message Phone: (818) 881-3706**  
**Chapter Website: [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org)**  
**Chapter email: [lacnps@lacnps.org](mailto:lacnps@lacnps.org)**

TOYON Edited by Steven L. Hartman  
[naturebase@aol.com](mailto:naturebase@aol.com)

SUBSCRIBER NOTE: Above your name on the address label is a code that indicates the month and year that your subscription/membership must be renewed. Example: DEC08\*=December 2008. If your subscription has expired, an asterisk will appear: Green – Please Renew. Red – Last Issue. *Check your label for your month!*  
**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.

**Chapter Officers:**

**President**  
 Snowdy Dodson  
 (818) 782-9346  
[snowdy.dodson@csun.edu](mailto:snowdy.dodson@csun.edu)

**Vice Presidents**  
 Jo Kitz  
 (818)348-5910  
[jkitz@mountaintrust.org](mailto:jkitz@mountaintrust.org)

Halli Mason  
 (818) 345-6749  
[hmason@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hmason@sbcglobal.net)

Sheila Braden  
 (818) 758-9778  
[sheila\\_braden@nps.gov](mailto:sheila_braden@nps.gov)

**Secretary**  
 Henrietta Yuan  
 (323) 463-1385  
[henriettay@hotmail.com](mailto:henriettay@hotmail.com)

**Treasurer**  
 Steven Hartman  
 (818) 881-3706  
[naturebase@aol.com](mailto:naturebase@aol.com)