



President's Message

By Snowdy Dodson

Wow! How about this rain? I have gotten over 10 inches in my San Fernando Valley yard so far this season and it isn't over yet. And I'll bet you're thinking "What a perfect year to go mushrooming!" So I trust that you will join us on Saturday March 27 for our annual Mushroom Foray and picnic. As we have done for the past several years, we will start on the Salvation Army property in the Santa Monica Mountains (see the calendar section for details) where Florence Nishida will lead us on a hunt through the oak woodlands of this wilderness park. At lunch we will have a delicious picnic courtesy of the Chapter. We will finish the day with a wildflower hike. This event will be a delightful chance to learn more about the fungi of the Santa Monica Mountains and see some wildflowers in the process. Consider the Foray as the field trip follow up to Florence's "Introduction to Mushrooms" program presentation at the Sepulveda Garden Center on March 9.

Our annual Wildflower Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 3 & 4 at Malibu Bluffs Park (see calendar for details). Our Chapter volunteers will again put together a breath-taking display of spring wildflowers gathered from private and public gardens. California native plants will be available for sale along with books, posters, and artwork. We will also offer hikes through the Malibu Bluffs Park down to the ocean. In the past, we have seen dolphins, whales, snakes, birds, and butterflies as well as the wonderful native plants on these adventures. The hikes will be led by experienced volunteers each day at 1 pm. Please join us. On April 2 we need cuttings from your yards for the wildflower display. This is a chance for you to show off the products of all your careful gardening. Call or email me for details on how to get the cuttings to us or if you have time to help with organizing and staffing the event.

Wildflower Show

April 3 and 4, 10am-4pm
Malibu Bluffs Park
Including
Wildflower Walks and
Native Plant Sale

See poster inside...please post it in your local community center. THANKS!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

March 9, 2010 – 7:30 - 9:30pm

Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

If It's Weird, It Must Be a Mushroom aka Mushrooms 101

Presenter: Florence Nishida, M.S.

(Research Associate,

Natural History Museum of L.A. County)

What IS a mushroom anyway? How are mushrooms and fungi related? Where are they in the Los Angeles area? Are any of them edible? Does the silver spoon test identify an edible mushroom? With a Power Point presentation and, possibly with fresh specimens, fungi expert Florence Nishida will answer these and other questions.

Nishida will describe the various biological, ecological, and economic roles of fungi in our lives. And she will introduce the audience to the stunning variety of interesting mushrooms in and around Los Angeles.

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April 13, 2010 – 7:30 - 9:00pm

First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica

Native Shrubs for Hedges

Presenter: Dr. Connie Vadheim,
CSU Dominguez Hills

Did you know that many L.A. County native shrubs can be used for hedges? Dr. Connie Vadheim will show you how to create native hedges and hedgerows using local native shrubs, perennials and even grasses. Learn how mixed hedgerows are an important tool to increase native habitat in home and commercial gardens. You'll leave inspired to include these ideas in your own yard!

Dr. Connie Vadheim is an adjunct professor of biology at CSU Dominguez Hills where she teaches plant physiology, environmental science, southern California biogeography and native habitat restoration. She manages the campus greenhouse & propagation facility which raises over 2000 native plants each year from seed and cuttings. She has over 15 years experience using southern California native plants in habitat restoration and home gardens.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

March 13, 2010

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Reserve March 13 for the statewide CNPS Chapter Council meeting and banquet. Not only is the Garden in full bloom at that time, but you meet other CNPSers from around the state and get updated on important issues. Check www.cnps.org for details.

SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE CLEANUP

April 10, 2010, 8:30 am to noon

Help restore Haskell Creek in the Sepulveda Basin. Directions: Take Woodley Avenue (which is 1/2 mile west of the I-405 Freeway) north from Burbank Boulevard. Go 1/2 mile north to the signs for the Wildlife Reserve and Japanese Gardens. Turn east (right). Bear right where the road forks. Continue east 1/2 mile to the end of the road. Sign in at the amphitheater, just beyond the large rock monuments and rock-faced buildings. For questions: 310-457-5796 or 818-831-6061.

27TH FIELD ECOLOGY WORKSHOP

April 10-11, 2010

Topanga Canyon Docents are hosting the workshop at Malibu Creek State Park Group Campground. Cost: \$50 adults; \$25 children (under 6 yrs free). Call Don Murchie (310-450-7025) or Harvey Bjornlie (310-454-3510) for registration.

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Paramount Ranch -

April 17, 2010, 11 Am To 5 Pm.

During this free one day event, the public will explore the natural and cultural resources within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and learn about the scientific research that helps us all better understand and protect those resources. Sponsored by the National Park Service and the LA Natural History Museum. For more information contact National Park Service, 805-370-2307 or www.nps.gov/samo/sciencefestival.htm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S GRASSLAND ECOLOGY AND SPECIFIC NATIVE GRASSES FOR RESTORATION

Apr 30 - May 1: 2-day Workshop

Become skilled at recognizing the basic groups and common species through work with plant samples in the classroom on Day 1 and in the field at the Santa Rosa Plateau on Day 2. Fees: \$220/CNGA members, \$260/*Non-members (*includes 1 yr complimentary membership), \$135/students. www.cnga.org

MATILIJIA POPPY FESTIVAL

May 2, 1-5pm

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, Thousand Oaks. Plant sale, speakers TBA. Contact Beverly Brune 818-889-0098 for information. See their website: <http://www.conejogarden.org/index.htm> for directions.

EIR FOR MALIBU PARKS ACCESS PLAN

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy has published a Draft Environmental Impact Report on the Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan <http://www.mrca.ca.gov/DEIR.html> . The Conservancy wants to improve public opportunities for hiking and limited camping on public parklands in the City of Malibu specifically at Malibu Bluffs and Ramirez, Escondido, and Corral Canyons. Comments on the plan are due by March 22, 2010.

WILDFLOWER HOTLINE

Theodore Payne Foundation
818-768-3533

Updated every Friday morning through the end of May. Email the Foundation to report wildflowers in bloom: flowerhotline@theodorepayne.org

GRIFFITH PARK

RARE PLANT SURVEY 2010

Join the Griffith Park Natural History Survey's Rare Plant Survey this spring and summer. Target species include mariposa-lilies, Humboldt lily, Nevin's barberry, and others. Contact Dan Cooper for more info dan@cooperecological.com.



SAVE CAHUENGA PEAK

The Trust for Public Land is leading a campaign to purchase the land overlooking the Hollywood sign. Once purchased the land would become part of Griffith Park for all of us to enjoy. Donations are needed to meet the April 14 deadline for the purchase. You can make a donation using the Trust website: <http://www.tpl.org> .

PROGRAMS

TUES 3/9 7:30-9:30pm

Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

If It's Weird, It Must Be a Mushroom

Presenter: Florence Nishida

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 4/13 7:30-9:00pm

First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

Native Shrubs For Hedges

Presenter: Dr. Connie Vadheim

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 3/2 7pm

LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting

at the home of Jo Kitz, 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills. Chapter members are invited! 818-348-5910

TUES 4/6 7pm

LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting

at the home of Halli Mason, in Tarzana. Chapter members are invited! 818-345-6749

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SUN 3/7 8:45am

Peter Strauss Ranch

La Sierra Canyon Native Plant Restoration. This beautiful area has a remarkable diversity of native plants, and a spring wildflower display will get even better when the weeds are gone. We are removing them to allow the native plants to create wildlife habitat. Meet in PSR parking lot to go to work site. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required* 4hrs*

SAT 3/13 8:45am

Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Park Restoration: In 2008, a massive earth-moving project returned Topanga Creek to its historic channel. During 2009, volunteers planted oaks, sycamores and native plants and watered and weeded them through the dry season. During 2010, volunteers will continue planting, caring for native plants and removing weeds. All ages; no experience necessary. Bring, water, snack, sturdy footwear. Credit for community service. *Reservations required* 3.5hrs**

SUN 3/14 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. Bring lunch and water; wear sturdy shoes; tools and gloves provided; credit for community service hours. Please call for site location. *Reservations required* 3.5hrs **

SAT 3/20 8:30am

Caballero Canyon

Chaparral Chatter Today is the Spring Equinox. The hike will go up the canyon appreciating the beauty of California chaparral and oak woodlands, view the expanse of city and mountains from vistas along Mulholland Dr., and enjoying the trails leading into the interior of Topanga State Park. We will stop for wildflowers, insects, animal tracks and scat. Bring hat, water, snack; boots recommended. RSVP 818-782-9346. 3hrs

SAT 3/20 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* 4hrs*

SUN 3/21 8:45am

Cold Creek Preserve

Cold Creek Restoration Volunteers plant native trees, wildflower, sages, shrubs and grasses on which the many birds and animals depend for food, nesting and safety. Oaks and sycamores will again grow along Cry Creek and Cienega Sin Nombre; meadow grasses will wave in the breeze where non-native plants (weeds) have taken over. Become a habitat restorationist for a day. Bring snack and water; wear sturdy shoes; gloves and tools provided; receive community service credit. *Reservations required* 4hrs*

SUN 3/28 10am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Bluffs Ramble to the Sea Three years 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. 818-782-9346 2hrs

SAT-SUN 4/3-4/4 10am-4pm

Malibu Bluffs Park

Wildflower Show, Wildflower Walks and Native Plant Sale
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 lead a 2-hour guided walk around Malibu Bluffs Park and down along the sea to view panoramic vistas and enjoy wildflowers and an occasional sea lion or porpoise. Location: Pacific Coast Hwy at Malibu Canyon Road. Cosponsored with City of Malibu Parks & Recreation Department. Call or email Snowy Dodson for further information or to volunteer some time: (818)782-9346 snowy.dodson@csun.edu

SAT 4/10 8:45am

Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Park Restoration: Topanga Creek was returned to its historic channel in 2008. Now, volunteers are restoring the creek-side native vegetation by planting, watering and weeding native plants. Bring water, snack, and sturdy footwear. Credit for community service. *Reservations required* 3.5hrs*

SUN 4/11 8:45am

Santa Monica Mountains

Weed War Each month, the weed war engages non-native invasive plant species (weeds) where a native plant community is most threatened along a trail, by a stream, in a grassland, in a restoration site. Site TBA. Credit for community service. *Reservations required* 3.5hrs*

continued on page 4

SAT 4/17 8:30am

Caballero Canyon

Chaparral Chatter With all of the winter rain, enjoy the continuing emergence of new flowers, bursts of color and excitement as we explore Caballero Canyon in Tarzana. The seasonal changes in the chaparral and oak woodland are astonishing, and the views from Mulholland Drive of the San Fernando Valley and the Pacific Ocean - on a clear day! - more than compensate for the 800' elevation gain. Bring water, hat and a curious open mind to take in the splendor of this gem in our city, a small section of the Santa Monica Mountains. Leisurely pace. Bring water and snack. RSVP 818-345-6749 3hrs

SAT 4/17 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Return of the Lost Oak Woodlands MRT's Commemorative Oaks Program volunteers have planted thousands of oak trees and native bunch grasses to restore habitat along Las Virgenes and Malibu Creeks. Your help is needed to continue these vital habitat restoration projects to provide a home for the birds and animals of Malibu Creek State Park. Credit for community service. *Reservations required** 3.5hrs

SUN 4/18 8:45am

Cold Creek Preserve

Habitat Repair Volunteers are continuing the restoration of MRT's Cold Creek Valley Preserve where land mis-use destroyed the life-sustaining habitat for the animal community. Non-native invasive plants are being replaced by oak trees, shrubs and bunch grasses that feed and shelter the animals and birds. Credit for community service. *Reservations required** 3.5hrs

SUN 4/25 8:45am

Peter Strauss Ranch

La Sierra Restoration Day After meeting at PSR, we caravan to La Sierra Preserve to halt the invasion of weeds that destroy the floral beauty of the preserve in wetlands and along the trails. Bring lunch and water. Credit for community service. *Reservations required** 3.5hrs

SUN 4/25 10am

Malibu Bluffs Park

Springtime Meander on the Bluffs. Explore along the trail to discover native wildflowers and grasses (and the invasion of weeds); enjoy great views of mountains and sea; dip your toes into the bay as we walk along the beach; look for dolphins, whales and sea birds. 818-345-6749 2hrs

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

Scientists at UCLA just added one more use for that cell phone in your pocket: battling invasive plant species. An article in the Magazine of the National Parks Conservation Association, Winter 2010, highlights the threat posed by alien invaders overrunning the landscape; it's a challenge not only facing the Santa Monica Mountains. Early detection is key to control and possible eradication, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars. Androids and iPhones are essentially small computers, able to store reference materials, communicate with global positioning satellites (GPS) and capture photos as well. And that is what this APP does. So far its use in the Santa Monica Mountains is limited to the National Recreation Area. But the program will be expanded. And meanwhile you can report your personal observations to the CNPS. Go to www.whatsinvasive.com to learn more about it and download it to your iPhone.

Steve Hartman, Snowdy Dodson, Bill Neill and I battled just such an invasion south of Caballero Canyon spotted during one of my hikes in a somewhat remote area of the Santa Monica mountains. It was a 20-minute hike to the site after a 20-minute drive along Mulholland. We first removed all the flower stalks and florets, bagged them, then sprayed the foliage of the bunch grass known as fountain grass, a fast growing, very invasive weed. At this point there are approximately 50 to 60 plants I hope we nipped it in the bud. Follow up work is necessary and volunteers are welcome. lacnps@cnps.org

By Halli Mason

CNPS ANNUAL PICNIC MARCH 27

Mushrooms, mushrooms, where art thou?

A morning of search and identify (led by mushroom expert, Florence Nishida,) will be capped as we gather for the CNPS annual picnic, once again at the Salvation Army Camp.

Spring rains promote the springing up of a surprisingly diverse and colorful array of mushrooms in the Santa Monica Mountains. Hard-working wood-rotting shelf fungi, brown banded "Turkey tails" (*Trametes versicolor*), bright orange blobby jelly fungus (*Tremella mesenterica*), and troops of parasol shaped leaf-litter *Psathyrella* spp. are common forest denizens who seem to pop from leaf litter and logs overnight.

We may find *Amanita calyprata*, the edible amanita, or the deadly poisonous *Amanita ocreata* surely the would be winners in a mushroom beauty pageant.

Delectable edibles also brightly decorate the trails: egg-yellow fluted chanterelles, velvet domed boletes, crinkle capped morels (rarer), and almond flavored Agaricus (*A. arvensis*).

Meet: 9:30 am, Saturday, March 27

Place: Back parking area of Tapia Park. The entrance to the park is near the intersection of Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon and Piuma Roads.

RSVP to the picnic shopper: Jo @ 818-348-5910 or email at jkitz@mountainstrust.org.

Bring: water and snacks if you will get hungry before lunch is served.

To collect: bring a long knife (or tent stake), a basket, and wax paper (no plastic).

Fee: No entry/parking fee. Tell park aide at the Tapia Park entry gate that you are going to the Salvation Army Camp. However, if you are late, you will need to pay the state park's parking fee and then find a way into the camp and hope you can find us.

CNPS COMMEMORATIVE GROVE EXPANDS

On a brilliant January morning, CNPS Weed Warriors and 24 volunteers from TreePeople met on the Torpin Plain of Malibu Creek State Park to care for the CNPS Commemorative Grove, a planting of native trees in commemoration of CNPS members and friends.

Two long-term Weed Warriors were honored for their long dedication to restoring native habitats by destroying invasive plants. Dr. Henry Carleton was unable to come and help with his tree being planted. However, Sid Mendel beamed at the honor and returned to work with David Hollombe to remove a carpet of *Urtica urens* (dwarf nettle) under a large coast live oak where children play in its shade.

In memoriam Mary Edwards, Harriet Allen, and Jackie and David Rosenson now have a tree in the CNPS grove. Additionally, ten valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) and three black walnuts (*Juglans californica*) were planted and existing tree sites treated to TLC.

In the de-planting department periwinkle (*Vinca major*), smilo grass (*Piptatherum miliaceum*) and over 100 terracina spurge (*Euphorbia terracina*) were removed from the banks of Malibu Creek.

We finished the day with a picnic under one of the four remaining historic oaks happy in the knowledge that one day, there will be many oak trees where a picnic can be enjoyed.

We will be weed warring at Malibu Creek on March 14 and Tapia Park on April 11. Become a Weed Warrior for a day.

By Jo Kitz

WEED WARRIORS
LOG 1721 HOURS IN 2009

Eleven weed wars defeated non-native invasive species in six scenic and resource rich parklands: Solstice Canyon, Tapia Park, La Sierra Preserve, Malibu Creek State Park, Caballero Canyon, Robert E. Meyer Parks and lower Topanga State Park. Volunteers contributed 1721 hours. Thousands of weeds were cleared so native plants will thrive and the Santa Monica Mountains biodiversity will not be driven out..

KING GILLETTE RANCH EA COMMENT PERIOD ENDS MARCH 15, 2010

The vision to establish an environmental and cultural education center at King Gillette Ranch in the geographic heart of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) has been discussed for many years. Implementing part of this vision by establishing a full-service visitor center at King Gillette Ranch is now in reach. The National Park Service at SMMNRA has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed construction and operation of the Anthony C. Beilenson Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch. They are seeking your comments on the project and the analysis presented in this document. The EA is available now for a 30-day public review and comment period. This comment period ends at midnight on March 15, 2010. You may obtain the EA from the following sources.

View/download from the web at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/samo>
Click on *Visitor Center at King Gillette Ranch*, then click on *Open for Public Comment*, and then click on document name.

View a hard copy of the EA at following public libraries: Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Malibu, Santa Monica, and Thousand Oaks (main branch). CDs and a limited number of hard copies of the document are available upon request. Please call the contact listed below. Written comments may be submitted in one of four ways.

By mail: Superintendent Woody Smeck
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Dr.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Email: SAMO_KGR_Planning@nps.gov

ANNUAL THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

April 10-11, 10 am to 4 pm; free lecture April 10, 6:30 pm at Barnsdall Park in Hollywood. Contact the Foundation for further details:
www.theodorepayne.org or 818-768-1802.

COUNTY PROPOSES "HEALTHY OAKS ORDINANCE"

Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich is trying to bypass Los Angeles County's Oak Tree Ordinance, which regulates trimming and removal of native oaks in unincorporated County areas, by replacing it with a new "Healthy Oaks Ordinance" that would put responsibility for protecting native oaks in the hands of the County Fire Department which has sometimes looked on native oaks as "fuel" to be "reduced" or even "eliminated" - instead of leaving it in the hands of the Department Of Regional Planning, where issues relating to oak trees have resided for the last twenty years.

In addition there appears to be no penalty for violation of this new ordinance, since anyone cutting down or trimming an oak tree without first obtaining a "Healthy Oaks Permit" would suffer only the penalty of having to go out and apply for an "after the fact" permit that, of course, could not restore what had been destroyed.

If you look around our oak woodlands, you will see lots of evidence of past fires in the form of fire scars of trunks and large limbs of live oaks, but it is not common for oaks to ignite and burn in a brush fire even when they are not trimmed and are growing intermixed with chaparral, least of all when they are growing in open woodlands and savannas. Thus, there is no reason to give the Fire Department primary jurisdiction over oak trees.

The new "Healthy Oaks Ordinance," known as Project Number R2009-(1-5) would apply to oak trees in all unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County. It has already received a "Negative Declaration" and was approved last week by the Regional Planning Commission. The next step will be final action by the Board Of Supervisors.

The California Department Of Fish And Game has asked the County to require some sort of permit for the removal of dead wood, since it may provide nesting habitat for rare and endangered birds.

If you want to find out more about the "Healthy Oaks Ordinance" or comment on it, contact Adrienne Ng at the Ordinance Section, Los Angeles County Department Of Regional Planning, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, 213-974-6432.

From the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force email bulletin.

"SWEETWATER MESA" DEVELOPMENT

The following is excerpted from an email bulletin from the Santa Monica Mountains Task Force. It explains the concerns about the proposal by "The Edge," guitarist for the U-2 Rock group, to build five large mansions on an unspoiled mountain ridge 700' to 1000' above the ocean a mile east of Malibu Lagoon.

This ridge has been described by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy as, "The most prominent landform along the coast between Topanga Canyon and the Ventura County line." It is designated as a "significant ridgeline" in the County's Draft Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Plan, and anyone who looks at the view of the Malibu Coast from the bluff top park in Santa Monica should have no difficulty understanding why.

The Conservancy also points out that the five mansions and the road that would have to be built up the mountainside to serve them would bisect 4000 acres of roadless core habitat in Sweetwater Canyon and eastern Malibu Canyon that now supports healthy populations of deer, mountain lions, and bobcats.

Since there is no water within a mile of the area to be developed, water would have to be pumped up 2200' to a water tank on Saddle Peak and then a mile-long water main would have to be built down to the proposed mansions a mile down the steep mountainside. This new water main would open up a large part of the roadless core habitat area to the same unsightly sprawl that has marred large areas of Saddle Peak to the north.

Access to the proposed mansions would be by a very narrow, winding, steep mountain road with a grade of up to 19% that would complicate access for fire engines and other emergency vehicles and egress for escaping residents in a brush fire emergency.

Then there's the fact that the dense coastal chaparral that now covers this part of the Santa Monica Mountains has burned several times in the last 40 years. "The Edge" apparently plans to mitigate this problem by removing large areas of native chaparral habitat and replacing it with grass or other shallow-rooted forbs at least that's the picture of his plans for the property his promotional brochures show.

The problem with replacing chaparral with grass is that the deep roots of woody chaparral shrubs are what keep our mountains from slipping and sliding even more than they do. Experiments by the Forest Service have shown that, when you remove those deep-rooted, woody shrubs you can expect a major increase in landslides and mudflows on homes below.

Thus, the developer of these five mansions will have a difficult choice; avoid major landslides and mudflows by leaving the woody deep-rooted shrubs in the ground and take your chances with the 100' to 200'-high wind-driven flames of a brush fire or remove those deep-rooted, woody shrubs, destroy the habitat they represent, and pray the hillside doesn't turn into mush in the next good rain.



LOS ANGELES · SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Members'
 Fungus & Flowers
 Walk and Picnic
 March 27, 9:30am
 See Announcement on Page 4

Wildflower Show
 April 3 & 4, 10am-4pm
 Malibu Bluffs Park

Volunteers are needed! We also need people for set up on
 Fri. April 2 in the afternoon. Contact Snowdy at (818)782-
 9346 Or at snowdy.dodson@csun.edu

TIME VALUE

Toyon

VOLUME 31 Number 2
 MARCH - APRIL 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Front Page

March & April Programs, President's Message
 Page 2

Upcoming Events and Announcements
 Page 3

Calendar of Chapter Events
 Page 4

More Chapter Events; Commemorative Grove;
 Weed Warriors; There's an App for That
 Page 5

King Gillette Ranch EA, Sweetwater Development,
 "Healthy Oak Ordinance"

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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.