



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Snowdy Dodson

We are entering the perfect time to begin planning for the fall California native planting season. Fortunately, there is a wealth of online information available to help you with this process. CNPS recently launched the "Growing Natives" link from the state website <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/grownative/> which contains an amazing amount of information relevant for planning a native garden. From this resource you will get guidance on site evaluation, plant selection, and habitat gardening. There is also a Growing Natives Blog that contains a wealth of information on such varied topics as bee-friendly gardening and seasonal color. The site also provides a list of native plant nurseries.

Our Chapter's website has great information for the native gardener via the "Native Plants" link <http://www.lasmmcnps.org/nativeplants.html> including planning and planting tips, and a list of native nurseries and botanical gardens. From the Theodore Payne Foundation website, use the "Native Gardening" link http://www.theodorepayne.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Main_Page to find a California Native Plant Wiki with a native plant library providing specific cultural information for hundreds of native species and cultivars and guides to gardening for wildlife/habitat as well as for regional, garden condition, and esthetic considerations.

Other California native nursery websites that are very useful include that of Las Pilitas Nursery <http://www.laspilitas.com/easy/easy.html> which has getting started guides and plans as well as links to information about California natural history; and Tree of Life Nursery which provides extensive planting, planning, and maintenance guides <http://www.californianativeplants.com/index.php/plants>.

Educating yourself about your gardening conditions and needs will help you choose the plants that will be successful in your own yard. As always, we will have gardening experts on hand to give you planting advice at our fall plant sale on Oct. 2 and 3 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. I look forward to seeing you there.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

September 14, 2010 – 7:30 - 9:30pm

Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino

Getting Native

Presenter: Frank Simpson

"Getting Native" is a how-to series designed to demonstrate how to create attractive, water-efficient landscapes for single-family residences. Now on PBS, "Getting Native" carries the viewer through all the necessary steps to overhaul and convert their own landscape to be more water efficient. Through the course of the series, a number of complete renovations are undertaken, removing or reducing the lawn area and replacing it with water-efficient California natives and other Mediterranean native plants. Plants suitable for the home garden are introduced, examples of established landscapes shown and tips and techniques for successful cultivation are demonstrated. A supporting website is available at www.gettingnative.com. Frank Simpson, writer and producer of "Getting Native," received a degree in horticulture at the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, Ireland, and has graduate degrees in landscape architecture from CSU Pomona.

October 12, 2010 – 7:30 - 9:00pm

First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica

Finally, A Native Nursery on the Westside

Presenter: Bart O'Brien,
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Bart O'Brien will discuss the newly opened native plant nursery located north of the Jackie Robinson Baseball Stadium on the Veteran's Administration grounds in Brentwood. It is a cooperative effort between Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and the VA. Veterans will help staff the nursery. The manager was hired by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. The nursery will cover 14 acres and will supply native plants suitable for local gardens and landscapes. Come and learn more about what Westside's first native plant nursery has to offer! Bart O'Brien is a noted native plant horticulturalist, research associate at Rancho Santa Ana Garden, and consultant for the new VA nursery.

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

PROGRAMS

TUES 9/14 7:30-9:30PM

Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino

Getting Native

Presenter: Frank Simpson

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 10/12 7:30-9:00PM

First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica

Finally, A Native Nursery on the Westside

Presenter: Bart O'Brien

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 9/7 7pm

LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting

at Halli Mason's home in Tarzana. Chapter members are invited. Call for directions. 818-345-6749.

TUES 10/5 7pm

LA/SMM Chapter Board Meeting

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

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SAT 9/11 8:45am

Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Creek Restoration: Topanga Creek was returned to its historic channel in 2008. During 2009-2010, creek-side native vegetation was planted and now needs watering and weeding by volunteers. Bring water, snack, sturdy footwear. Credit for community service. 3.5hrs *

SUN 9/12 8:45am

Santa Monica Mountains

Weed Wars Restore Habitat. A weed warrior gets the ripgut and thistles out so native grasses, plants, and oak seedlings will again provide food and shelter for the animals of the mountains. Credit for community service. 3.5hrs *

SAT 9/18 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Oak Savannah Restoration/ Commemorative Oaks Young oak trees need summer water to become the stately oaks that restore life, beauty and habitat to the park. Community service credit. 3.5hrs *

SUN 9/19 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Oak Savannah Restoration/ Commemorative Oaks Young trees planted in the winter now need summer water and weeding to become the beautiful oaks that restore life, beauty and habitat to the park. Credit for community service. 3.5hrs *

SAT 9/25 8:45am

Cold Creek Preserve

Creek-side Habitat Restoration Hundreds of beautiful native plants need volunteers to give them enough water to survive until the first rains of winter. Credit for community service. 3.5hrs *

SUN 9/26 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 818-782-9346

SUN 10/3 8:45am

Topanga State Park

Lower Topanga Creek Restoration: See write-up for 9/11. Bring water, snack, sturdy footwear. Community service credit. 3hrs *

SAT 10/9 8:45am

Cold Creek Preserve

Cold Creek Preserve Habitat Restoration Day Volunteers are needed to bring back the native plants where invasive non-native plants have taken over. Planting, weeding and watering will restore the trees, wildflowers, sages, shrubs and grasses on which the many birds and animals depend for food, nesting and safety. Oaks and sycamores will again grow along Dry Creek and Cienega Sin Nombre; meadow grasses will wave in the breeze. Community service credit is given. 3hrs *

SUN 10/10 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park, Tapia Unit

Weed War Is Recruiting Weed Warriors to celebrate Coastweeks. Weeds near streams in Tapia will be removed to let native roses oaks and elderberries grow back in to create wildlife habitat. Bring lunch, water and gloves. Receive community service credit. 3.5hrs *

SAT 10/16 8:30am

Caballero Canyon

Chaparral Chatter Hikes will explore the trails of central Santa Monica Mountains into Topanga State Park. October is still a month of dormancy for most native plants so this is a good time to see how native plants cope with extended drought as we hike through open chaparral and oak woodlands. Bring hat, water, sturdy boots. Info: 818-345-6749 3hrs

SAT 10/16 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Oak Woodland Restoration: Volunteers Needed: The Commemorative Oaks Program plants and cares for native oaks, shrubs and grasses throughout the park to restore wildlife habitat and to add to the beauty of the park. Community service credit. 3hrs *

SUN 10/17 8:45am

Malibu Creek State Park

Oak Woodland Restoration: See write-up for 10/16. Community service credit. 3hrs *

SUN 10/31 10am

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; return to the Bluffs and look for dolphins and whales. Meet in the Bluffs Park parking lot. 2hrs 818-345-6749

PLANT SALE

OCT. 2 & 3

Sepulveda Garden Center, 10am-4pm
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
(near Hayvenhurst) in Encino
See poster for details or www.lacnps.org

* co-sponsored by LA/SMM CNPS, Mountains Restoration Trust, and the Tree People. *Reservations required.* 818-591-1701 x203 or online at volunteer@treepeople.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

**SANTA CLARA RIVER RALLY & CLEAN UP
SAT. SEPT. 11, 8 AM-11 AM**

Location: Behind Soledad Shopping Center, 18386 Soledad Canyon Rd. Help clean up a portion of the longest free-flowing and one of the last two remaining natural river systems in southern California. For further information:
<http://www.santa-clarita.com/index.aspx?page=753>

**CNPS FOCUS ON CONSERVATION
SYMPOSIUM - SEPT. 10-12****COLLEGE OF THE REDWOODS, FT. BRAGG**

On Sept. 11, the Dorothy King Young Chapter will host a meeting to discuss the biological, legislative, legal, and public relations challenges for the conservation of List 2 taxa (species or subspecies that are rare in California but more common in other states). Other topics under discussion will be renewable energy, CEQA challenges, and using vegetation maps as a conservation tool. The day will end with a barbecue. This meeting is part of the quarterly CNPS Chapter Council meeting. Field trips are planned for Sept. 12. Contact Stacey Flowerdew to RSVP or for additional information - sflowerdew@cnps.org or 916-447-2677 x204.

**BROOM CONTROL IN THE SANTA
MONICA MOUNTAINS****SAT. SEPT. 18, SADDLEPEAK TRAILHEAD**

Volunteers are needed to help Channel Islands Restoration and the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council clear one acre of highly invasive Spanish broom (*Spartium junceum*) along the famous Backbone Trail. Spanish broom is a fast spreading destructive plant that has taken over parts of the trail. It is a moderate thirty minute hike along Saddle Peak Trail to get to the work site. Although it can be steep at times, the amazing views and abundance of native plants along the way is well worth the effort. Bring plenty of water, lunch and snacks, sturdy shoes/boots, hat, sunscreen, workgloves. RSVP to Kevin Thompson, cirkevncir@yahoo.com 805-660-7399.

**DESCANSO CALIFORNIA GARDEN
SEED PLANTING & TOUR****SAT. NOV. 6, 9 AM-NOON, PLANTING; NOON, TOUR**

The California Garden portion of Descanso Gardens was designed by Theodore Payne 50 years ago and is in need of some TLC. Volunteers are needed to plant wildflower seeds by raking out areas, broadcasting seed with sand and raking the seeds in. 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. Contact Rachel for further information email: 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.

Descanso Gardens website:

www.descansogardens.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=54&Itemid=63

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**ANNUAL CHAPTER PLANT SALE
OCTOBER 2 & 3**

Once again our plant sale will be held in Encino on the interesting and lovely grounds of the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, south-side and parallel to the 101 Freeway, between Hayvenhurst Avenue and Balboa Boulevard.

Our plants will come from two different nurseries, "Matilija" and "Napolito." Our selection will be extensive. We will be able to offer staple plants, which could be incorporated into any garden, and also plants for the collector. There will also be many plant seeds for sale. By mid-September we should know what will be available and we will publish our plant list on our web site www.lacnps.org.

We are excited to present two interesting and knowledgeable speakers this year. On Saturday at 1pm, Bob Perry, Landscape Architect and Professor Emeritus from Cal State Polytechnic University at Pomona will talk on "Native Landscapes Reflecting Experience and Vision;" on Sunday at noon, Emily Green, LA Times "Dry Garden" columnist, will recount the ten year evolution of a native garden that runs on native water.

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH SET-UP
FRIDAY AFTERNOON FROM 1 TO 5 PM.** We will let you have first dibs at selecting the plants you would like to purchase. You can pick them up any time Saturday or Sunday.

**WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS DURING THE TWO
PLANT SALE DAYS, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.**
(818) 881-3706 or by email to hmason@sbcglobal.net.

For those who would like to become a CNPS member during the course of our sale, we offer a FREE book "Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains."

I am looking forward to another successful weekend. The Annual Fall Plant Sale is our biggest fund-raiser for the chapter and the proceeds enable us to do much needed conservation work.

Come check us out. The time for natives in your garden has come; they are beautiful, they are appropriate, most - once established - require little water.

by Halli Mason, plant sale co-chair

CNPS EDUCATIONAL GRANTS

Each year the CNPS Educational Grants program receives funding to help support field research related to California's native plants. Students, CNPS members or postdoctoral botanists are eligible, in that order, for grants that are generally not more than \$1,000. Proposals should involve taxa or plant communities that are of concern due to direct or indirect potential impacts. The grants need to be relevant to our conservation mission. Certain small endowed funds are available specifically for graduate students planning research involving rare plants or evolutionary botany.

If you are interested in obtaining support from CNPS for your work, request a copy of the guidelines (for drafting and submitting a proposal) from the state CNPS office. Requests for this or other information can be directed to Chair, Educational Grants Committee, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113. Completed proposals must be received in the CNPS office no later than September 30, 2010.

RECYCLED WATER FORUM PROCEEDINGS NOW AVAILABLE!

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation has just released digital proceedings from their "Recycled Water/Plant/Soil Compatibility Conservation Forum." Anyone with an interest in water conservation and sustainable landscapes will find the design and maintenance implications within these proceedings invaluable.

To download, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/recycledwaterforum> (Adobe Reader required)

Three-hundred planning and design professionals attended the event held in 2009 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. The Department brought together speakers with expertise in native and drought tolerant plants as well as recycled water irrigation to discuss solutions for parks and public space. Following the Forum, presentation summaries were compiled into proceedings by the Los Angeles San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council.

The Recycled Water Conservation Forum was held in response to the State mandate for water conservation (AB1881) and the concerns that many government agencies had about the successful use of recycled water with native and drought tolerant plants. Forum topics included irrigation strategies, the effects of recycled water on soils and plants, suitable turf varieties, nursery perspectives, and public park case studies.

For questions regarding the event or the Proceedings contact Susan Pearson, Department of Parks and Recreation Facilities Planner II at 213.738.4750.

WAVES, WETLANDS, AND WATERSHEDS EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

When you attend one of the free workshops listed below, you will receive a free copy of the California Coastal Commission's science activity guide for teachers, *Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds*. You'll try out some of the activities in the guide and get an overview of the other free educational resources and programs available through the Coastal Commission. You will be eligible for professional growth credit from University of the Pacific upon completing additional work. REGISTER for a workshop by contacting Annie Kohut Frankel at afrankel@coastal.ca.gov, (415) 597-5888, or (800) Coast4U. These workshops are open to both formal and informal educators. Registration deadline is October 4, 2010.

Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds is a classroom activity guide for teachers that addresses California's critical coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and much more. Workshops take place locally on Thursday, October 14, 4-6pm; Audubon Center at Debs Park, Los Angeles; Friday, October 15, 4-6pm; Channel Islands Marine Education Center; Oxnard, Ventura County; and Saturday, October 16; Cabrillo Marine Aquarium San Pedro, Los Angeles County (Time TBA.)

36th ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BOTANISTS SYMPOSIUM – OCTOBER 9, 2010

Southern California Mountains Botany
You Say Coastal, I Say Cismontane

For more info and to sign up see www.socalbot.org.

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL 19TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Ventura Beach Crowne Plaza
October 14-16

October 13 - Strategic Approaches Pre-Symposium Field Course
October 14-15 - Symposium, Ventura Beach Crown Plaza
October 16 - Field Trips around and beyond Ventura

Cal-IPC's theme this year is Weeds and Wildlife: Impacts and Interactions and promises a great line-up of talks, posters, and activities. This year's keynote speaker will be Scott Morrison, Director of Conservation Science for the California Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. Sessions address trends in early detection mapping, balancing management for invasive plants and wildlife, grazing for weeds and wildlife, and many more. A list of confirmed speakers will soon be available on Cal-IPC's website: <http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/index/php>.

Other activities include Saturday field trips and a new field course on Strategic Approaches for Managing Weeds. Field trips options will include taking a Santa Barbara Tour through multiple exciting projects, visiting Santa Cruz Island either for the day or overnight, or traveling beyond Ventura Beach to explore local restoration sites. Continuing education units from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation will be available for technical sessions, field trips, and the field course.

Student Activities:

Students receive discounted registration – Just \$100 before September 21; career panel and discussion group - What do different employers look for in a job applicant? Job board – Employers send announcements to Heather Brady, hjbrady@cal-ipc.org

Photo Exhibit – Submit entries by September 1.

Banquet – Thursday night, included in registration fees.

Raffle & Silent Auction – During the Social Hour before the banquet. Contact raffle@cal-ipc.org if you have something to donate.

Important Deadlines

September 1 – Photo contest entries due

September 21 – Deadline for discounted early registration

How to Register

Registration includes breakfast Thursday and Friday, Thursday lunch, Thursday banquet, a free drink ticket for the Thursday social hour, and 2011 Cal-IPC membership! Full information and registration forms posted at

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/symposia/register1.php>.

Online registration is encouraged for faster processing.

Your username: CNPSLA

Your password: arundo

Theodore Payne Foundation Native Gardening Classes

Visit www.theodorepayne.org to find out more about the many native plant gardening classes available. The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, Inc., established 1960, is a non-profit California native plant nursery, seed source, bookstore and education center, open to the public year round. 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, CA 91352. (818) 768-1802

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS ONLINE MAP AND DATABASE

Best Web Site Ever for Recreation Seekers: You can enjoy the outdoors with family and friends, regardless of where you go. With California State Parks' new on line map and database, not only can you look for a nearby State Park, but easily find other park and open-space recreation opportunities anywhere in California. Click on <http://www.findrecreation.parks.ca.gov> to find a park near you today! For an overview of the features, read the Press Release at www.parks.ca.gov/pages/712/files/2010finalbestwebsitesrelease.pdf. State Parks is investigating ways to improve the trails content and allow you to add your trails to this recreation treasure-trove! GIS professionals! Find just what you've been searching for within the California Protected Areas Database at www.calands.org/. This GIS inventory includes:

49,000,000 total acres in fee ownership (not including easements)
860 Agencies (governmental and non-profit)
51,500 Holdings (individual parcels of protected lands)
14,300 Units (actual park or other protected areas)

GARDENING

UNDER MEDITERRANEAN SKIES VIII: STYLE & WHIMSY IN THE SUSTAINABLE GARDEN 23 TO 26 SEPTEMBER - GREATER PASADENA AREA A Pacific Horticulture Society symposium

Focused on the lighthearted side of gardening in harmony with our Mediterranean climate, this event offers a remarkable variety of garden tours, lectures, workshops and panel discussions. Each day and certain events are priced separately, allowing participants to attend any one or more days and to tailor their participation to suit themselves. Thursday, September 23 offers a choice of all-day tours and a panel discussion and dinner. On each of the next three days, three speakers (different each day) will show us how to increase the fun and style in our gardens, we'll enjoy an outdoor lunch and visit three exceptional private gardens (different each day) demonstrating sustainable garden practices. This event is selling out quickly, so don't delay in registering. Prices start at \$135/day.

For complete information and a registration form, click www.pacifichorticulture.org/education-events or send an e-mail to symposium@pacifichorticulture.org. If you have a question or want more information, call (626) 795-0315.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I want to thank one of our more distant readers, Joan Stewart of Springville and the Alta Peak Chapter of CNPS, for pointing out that "tecolote" is an owl, and "tocalote" is the weed also known as *Centaurea melitensis*. Apparently I've been spelling it incorrectly in the TOYON for some time. Thanks, Joan!

Speaking of time, I want to point out that I've been making some errors on the volume numbers of the TOYON. Year 2010 is our 30th edition (despite issues number 2 and 3 this year marked "volume 31"). I will try not to do this again in the future.

Starting with this issue, the Calendar of Events has been moved up to the second page, to emphasize our chapter's activities, of which there are many – even in the middle of the summer!

Last, this newsletter was put together in mid-July due to my schedule. There might be events or late announcements that didn't get in this newsletter for September and October, so visit www.lacnps.org to always get the latest info.

– by Steve Hartman



Current view of the native plant garden at Descanso.

DESCANSO NATIVE PLANT GARDEN NEEDS ASSISTANCE

In the 1950s, Theodore Payne began volunteering at Descanso. He pressed for the creation of a new garden whose purpose was "to show proper uses of native plants in the landscape, and to demonstrate the purpose for which they may be used."

In 1959 Payne donated over 1,000 specimens to the garden, which was matched by a similar donation from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. He also set up wildflower fields for raising seeds. Today the California garden is in need of some TLC. Descanso needs help in restoring and maintaining this historic garden. In addition to short-term volunteering through the California Native Plant Society, long-term weekly volunteers to help with weeds, propagation, plant care and more are needed. People interested in volunteering can contact Tali Arnold, volunteer coordinator at tarnold@descansogardens.org.



Theodore Payne walking in the native garden in the 1950's.

Photo © Steve Hartman

Photo courtesy Descanso Gardens



LOS ANGELES · SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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PLANT SALE

OCT. 2 & 3

Volunteers needed!
 Please call 818-345-6749

TIME VALUE

Toyon

VOLUME 30 Number 5
 SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2010

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