



## UPCOMING PROGRAM

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

**JULY 10, 2007 – 7:30 - 9:30PM**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SANTA MONICA**

### **OUR FOREST, OUR RIVER, OUR BACKYARD: SAVING THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER**

Presented by

UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Program Advanced Environmental Analysis and Planning Class, Fall 2006

Speaker: Cathy Roberts

The class examined user impacts to flora, fauna and landscape features--and determined mitigations for those impacts--in the Tri-Forks Area of the Angeles National Forest. The Sierra Club was their client. Who would carry out the mitigations and how the mitigations would be monitored also were addressed. Come and see how their analysis and their solutions might apply to user impacts in the Santa Monica Mountains!

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

### **NO PROGRAM IN AUGUST**

#### **GRIFFITH PARK FIRE RECOVERY**

Report by Snowdy Dodson, Chapter President

A brush fire on May 8, 2007 burned over 800 acres (25% of the natural habitat) of Griffith Park over the course of two days. The fire was caused by a cigarette, and all smoking, barbecues, portable stoves, flame and fire of any kind are now banned in the Park a measure that will prevent future human caused fires in the 3,300 remaining acres. The fire charred a significant portion of the mixed chaparral and mixed shrub plant communities within the burn areas; and there was much damage to native woodland communities such as oaks and sycamores. Due to ecological sensitivity and public safety, much of the burned area of the Park is closed to hikers and other visitors for the foreseeable future.

The Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and Recreation (RAP) in conjunction with the Dept. of Public Works Bureau of Engineering (BOE) began working on the Griffith Park Fire Recovery Plan only a few days after the fire was extinguished. Natural ecosystem recovery and erosion control were given top priorities. The Recovery Plan is outlined in three phases: 1) emergency debris removal/environmental assessment, surveys, mapping/erosion control design; 2) mitigation for erosion control, watershed protection, trail repairs, landmark rehabilitation; 3) natural restoration which includes vegetation and weed management, landscape, infrastructure and structural repair. To facilitate the planning process, the City has recruited experts from federal, state, and local government and from community (including the California Native Plant Society) and private organizations. CNPS involvement in the Recovery Planning includes participation at Recovery Plan Task Force meetings as well as plant surveying in the burned area. The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter and its members plan to take an active role in recovery efforts with a focus on weed management.

The public and City focus has definitely been on Griffith Park as an urban wilderness. In its Resolution to the City of Los Angeles on the Griffith Park Special Recovery Fund and Plan the Board of the Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council (GGPNC) recommended (along with other points) that annual City funding be devoted to the enlightened management of the Park's chaparral areas and other natural ecosystems, and that tree and plant

*continued on page 2*

## SUMMER CLASSES AT THE THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

Because of an early start to fire season and this being a major drought year, the Theodore Payne Foundation (TPF) decided to present a timely and urgent class: **The Truth About Native Plants, Chaparral and Fire: A New Way to Look at Nature in California** on Saturday, July 14, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Of all the distinct, natural communities in California, chaparral is the only one found throughout the state and is the only one that can be said to represent the state's most characteristic wilderness. Yet, it and the native plants that comprise it are demonized and unreasonably feared because of misunderstandings relating to wildfire. Join renowned naturalist and writer Richard W. Halsey (*Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*) at TPF as he describes the chaparral's unique natural history, how to best protect your home from wildfire risk, and why California native plants represent such a vital link to nature for all Californians. Fee: \$35 TPF members, \$45 nonmembers. Seating is limited. Sign up in the TPF bookstore or by phone: (818) 768-1802.

A **California Native Plant Horticulture** class with TPF Nursery Manager Louise Gonzalez is scheduled for Saturday, July 21, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tailored for anyone new to natives or just in need of a review of the basics, this class offers a wealth of information on the wonderful world of gardening with California flora. Discover what a "native plant" is, why natives are valuable, plant communities, plant requirements, establishment, planting details, pruning, irrigation, maintenance and where to see and buy native plants. Call (818) 768-1802 to register.

TPF's popular 3-part design series, **California Native Plant Garden Design**, is returning on Saturday, August 4th. Space is limited to 10 projects, so call (818) 768-1802 to register soon. See more details at the "Events & Classes" section of the TPF website at [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org). Summer is the ideal time to plan your native garden.

## 1 (866) WILD - 911

The new toll-free wildlife hotline - 866-WILD-911 - is a valuable public service. It's like a 911 for wildlife emergencies – one number that will help link callers to the right resources. This user-friendly phone system provides the caller with the telephone numbers of accredited wildlife experts nearest them, specializing in the species they've encountered. It also offers critical information pertinent to a caller's situation - how to help the animal while staying safe in doing so. The hotline made its debut April 2nd in Southern California, initially serving Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara counties.

## CNPS Statewide Conservation Conference September 8- 9, 2007 Santa Cruz, California

Join CNPSers from throughout the State during our annual conservation conference that will cover all kinds of topics. See [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) for more info.

## Southern California Botanists Annual Symposium

October 20th, 2007

at Cal State Fullerton.

**Borderless Botany: Current Border Issues in Southern California**

See their website for details: [www.socalbot.org](http://www.socalbot.org)

## GRIFFITH PARK REPORT (CONTINUED)

restoration, to the extent feasible, be limited to native species. Indeed the RAP position has been to let the wild areas in the Park recover naturally with minimum human intervention. RAP plans for the restoration of landmarks such as the bird sanctuary and Dante's View include using native plants as much as possible.

Maps and information regarding the post-burn recovery of the Park may be found on the RAP web pages via a link on <http://laparks.org/> and on the GGPNC website <http://www.ggpnc.org/>. Members of the community who wish to volunteer or make donations should contact Christina Iwata of LA Recreation and Parks by phoning her at (213) 485-7512 or via email [Christina.Iwata@lacity.org](mailto:Christina.Iwata@lacity.org).

The Griffith Park Natural History Survey, inaugurated before the May 8<sup>th</sup> fire, has now become even more important as Griffith Park Recovery planning efforts unfold. The Survey is to be coordinated by a steering committee whose members include Daniel Cooper, Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc., Albert Torres, Chief Ranger for RAP, and George Grace, Franklin Hills Resident Assn. The Survey is coordinated by Cooper Ecological Monitoring. Collected data on breeding birds, wildlife movements, rare flora, species lists and other natural history will be presented to the public as a website. The survey fieldwork is ongoing and completion of the website is projected for fall 2007. This project will provide a much needed centralized gateway to information on the natural history of Griffith Park.

## PROGRAMS

TUES 7/10 7:30-9:30pm

*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica***OUR FOREST, OUR RIVER,  
OUR BACKYARD: SAVING  
THE SAN GABRIEL RIVER**

Presented by

UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture  
Program Advanced Environmental Analysis  
and Planning Class, Fall 2006

Speaker: Cathy Roberts

**Topic:** The class examined user impacts to flora, fauna and landscape features--and determined mitigations for those impacts--in the Tri-Forks Area of the Angeles National Forest. The Sierra Club was their client. Who would carry out the mitigations and how the mitigations would be monitored also were addressed. Come and see how their analysis and their solutions might apply to user impacts in the Santa Monica Mountains!

**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.

**NO AUGUST PROGRAM**

## BOARD MEETINGS

TUES 7/3 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

TUES 8/14 7pm

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 11 Program****Topic:** Beetles of Southern California**Speaker:** James N. Hogue, Manager of Biological Collections in the Department of Biology at California State University, Northridge.**Chapter Plant Sale**

October 6 &amp; 7 at the Sepulveda Garden Center

## HIKES AND RESTORATION

SUN 7/8 9am

**State Parks****Weed Wars** bring back wildflowers, native plants and native bunch grasses. Wastrels of the weed world are terminated by weed warriors. Community service credit. *Reservations required* (818) 348-5910. 5hrs. Co-sponsored by California State Parks.

SAT 7/14

9am

**Cold Creek Preserve****Second Saturday** This leisurely 2-mile walk through the canyon on an oak-canopied trail will see many summer wildflowers and the landslides that closed the preserve. *Reservations required.* (818) 591-1701 x 203. 3 hrs. Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 7/22 10am

**Malibu Bluffs Park****Bluffs Ramble to the Sea** Dip your toes into the bay plus look for dolphins, whales, and summer wildflowers on this 2-mile walk. 2 hrs. Call (818) 782-9346.

SAT 7/28 8am

**Peter Strauss Ranch****Wetland Restoration Day** After meeting at Peter Strauss Ranch, 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 the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 8/12 9am

**Solstice Canyon Park****Weed Wars** Work in the shade beside the creek removing English ivy from the trees and terraces of Solstice Canyon. Community service credit. *Reservations required.* (818) 348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored with the National Park Service.

SAT 8/18

8am

**Malibu Creek State Park****Oak Tree Restoration/ Commemorative Oaks** We'll remove non-native plants 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) 591-1701 x 203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 8/26 8am

**Peter Strauss Ranch****Habitat Restoration Day** After meeting at Peter Strauss Ranch, we will search out weeds that native animals don't eat and that keep food plants from growing in the La Sierra Preserve. (Community service credit.) *Reservations required.* (818) 591-1701 x 203. 5hrs. Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 8/26 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 see how native plants recover after a wildfire. 2hrs (310) 472-0624

SUN 9/2 8am

**Peter Strauss Ranch****Wetland Restoration Day** After meeting at Peter Strauss Ranch, 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 x 203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 9/9 9am

**State Parks****Weed Wars** reduce invasive non-native species that destroy habitat and prevent the natural return of California bunch grasses and wildflowers. Community service credit. *Reservations required.* (818) 348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored by California State Parks.**Popular Biodiversity Atlas Reprinted**

A popular California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) guide to the Golden State's plant and animal life is available again after reprinting. The Atlas of the Biodiversity of California, authored by DFG natural resource scientists, was so popular the first 5,000 printed books sold out and a second printing was required.

The 112-page bound collection of full-color maps, photographs and written accounts of the state's diverse wildlife species and habitats became one of DFG's most popular publications when it was first published in 2003. The Atlas explores the state's remarkable geography, depicts how biodiversity is measured, and provides samples of the complexity and unique qualities of many California habitats. Illustrations by artist Dugald Stermer are featured in this user-friendly, educational tool.

The Biodiversity Atlas (Stock Order #7540-928-1200-0) can be purchased for \$20 (includes tax and shipping). Ordering information and sample pages are available at <http://atlas.dfg.ca.gov>



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**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
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## TIME VALUE

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