



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

MAY 8, 2007 – 7:30 - 9:30PM

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SANTA MONICA**

TRACKING TOPANGA'S TERRIFIC TURTLES

Speaker: Rosi Dagit

Southwestern Pond Turtles are the only turtle species native to the Santa Monica Mountains. Historically they were found in most creeks and canyons but as of 2002, they have only been seen in 5 locations. They are somewhat misnamed, as they spend the majority of their time out of the water and in the native chaparral. One of the main causes for their population decline is the loss of this important terrestrial habitat adjacent to creeks and drainages as more and more development intrudes into these areas. The population in Topanga is the largest at this time. In order to learn more about how to protect this state listed Species of Special Concern, Rosi's study focused on documenting recruitment of hatchlings, monitoring the overall population, and radio tracking adults to determine their habitat needs. Rosi will share stories about the turtles, including Lydia who routinely scaled 30 foot waterfalls, and Joe, the Romeo of Cattail Island. Find out more about the social life, habitat needs, and current efforts to protect these fascinating critters.

Rosi is the Senior Conservation Biologist for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains.

JUNE 12, 2007 – 7:30 - 9:30PM

**SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
ENCINO**

LOS ANGELES RIVER MASTER PLAN

Speaker: Carol Armstrong

The Los Angeles River has evolved from an uncontrolled, meandering river producing a valuable source of water for early inhabitants to a major flood control waterway. Today in addition to flood deterrents for the Los Angeles Basin, it offers significant opportunities for recreation and aesthetic improvement in the Los Angeles Metropolitan area. The Los Angeles River Master Plan provides for the optimization and enhancement of aesthetic, recreational, flood control and environmental values by creating a community resource, enriching the quality of life for residents, and without losing the flood control characteristics of the river. In 1991, after much attention to the river, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors directed the Departments of Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Regional Planning to develop the Los Angeles River Master Plan. The Master Plan, completed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 1996, formulated a multi-objective program for the river while recognizing its primary purpose for flood protection.

Carol represents the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The CNPS LA/SMM Chapter Wildflower Show on April 7 & 8, 2007 attracted hundreds of visitors to the post-burn venue at Malibu Bluffs Park. Our lovely California native flower display reflected the beauty of our historic landscape. Plant specimens came from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden as well as from the private gardens of **Trish** and **Chris Meyer**, **Steve** and **Leslie Hartman**, and **Doug Allan**. Many thanks go out to all individuals and institutions that either contributed or gathered flowers for this year's crowd-pleasing display.

As usual, California Native Plants were available for purchase. Trish and Chris Meyer were knowledgeable plant sales persons with help from **Christine Walker** and **Katy Okun**. Our thanks to Matilija Nursery (www.matilijanursery.com) for the high-quality native plants.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from front page

Wildflower Show Co-Chairs **Sheila Bjornlie, Snowdy Dodson,** and **Trish Meyer** would like to thank the following volunteers for making the 2007 event a success: **Halli Mason, Frank Landis,** and **Brendan Clark,** wildflower walk leaders; **David Ecklund,** walk leader & set-up/cleanup; **Harvey Bjornlie,** set-up; **David Hollombe,** plant labels, wildflower walk assistance, & cleanup; **Sid Mendel, Henry Carleton, Jo Kitz, & Olga Hammer,** book sales; **Henrietta & Bill Yuan** who ran our canteen; **Kurt Rademacher,** set-up/cleanup; **John Kuiper** Saturday volunteer; **Sandy Glover** and **Pong Apinyavat** who displayed their lovely paintings; The National Park Service and **Sheila Braden;** and the **City of Malibu, Parks and Recreation Dept.** for the venue and support staff.

Finally we thank all of you who attended the event and made it a success.

– Snowdy Dodson

Remembering Rosetta Bentley

One of my long-time hiking buddies was good friends with Rosetta Bentley, a nurse during her working career and later on a care-giver for the elderly. Rosetta spent time in Northeast Africa providing medical help to poor villagers. She was very independent, truly a free spirit, and a dedicated amateur botanist who knew every flower, shrub, and tree in the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. I met Rosetta many years ago while hiking with the Sierra Club. I learned a great deal of local flora from her. She was truly a character. She would always hike in her blue knee-length (almost) hospital coat claiming it was the most comfortable attire for hiking.

Rosetta recently died and made a request to my friend Joe Douglass that her botany books and field guides, collected during her life, would find a good home. We would have liked to thank Rosetta's sister, Jane Sparks, who lives somewhere in the Portland area, for giving this collection to CNPS, but do not know her exact whereabouts.

Our chapter will make these wonderful books, many of them first editions, available to our membership through an auction or sale. I think that Rosetta would have liked the idea of supplementing our treasury in this way.

Rosetta will be missed. She passed on to many of us her sense of adventure, her quest to learn and her appreciation of the natural world around her, for which we thank her.

– Halli Mason

It is Easier to Donate NOW!

A New Feature on the CNPS website makes it easier to renew your membership or donate regularly using new options!

Go on the web to www.cnps.org and you'll find a brand new poppy icon that links you to a page where you can donate to CNPS in installments: monthly, yearly, or whatever suits your schedule and budget! This feature was developed through the membership committee, chaired by Arvind Kumar on the State Board of Directors, at the March meeting. Several members wished it could be "as easy as public radio" for renewing memberships and making regular contributions to CNPS; now it is! Tell your friends, and check it out before your membership expires. Your donations are tax-deductible and can make a real difference for our flora. Thank you!

RCD Has Moved!

The Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains has moved. Their new address is 30000 Mulholland Highway, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Their new mailing address is Post Office Box 638, Agoura Hills, CA 91376-0638. Their new telephone number is (818) 597-8627 and fax is (818) 597-8630. They are located in the ranch house of the beautiful Peter Strauss Ranch, which is a unit of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Interested in CNPS Activities?

If you would like to see what other CNPS chapters are doing, and what our chapter has been doing, visit the CNPS website to see the **2006 Annual Chapters Activities Report** by clicking on <http://cnps.org/cnps/chapters>

Upcoming Event - Save the Date!

**Conservation and Communication:
The Human Dimension in Invasive Plant Management**
September 20-22, 2007, Bahia Resort Hotel, San Diego

The **16th Annual Cal-IPC Symposium** will be September 20-22 in San Diego, preceded by a Mapping Field Course on September 19. The annual Symposium brings together 350 land managers, researchers, and stewardship volunteers to share the latest in invasive plant biology and management. This year's program will include invited speakers addressing how effective communication can help your weed programs.

The website of the Los Angeles / Santa Monica Mountains Chapter has been recently revised and updated! Please take a look at the new site and let us know what you think. Find us at www.lasmmcnps.org or www.lacnps.org

PROGRAMS**TUES 5/8 7:30-9:30pm***First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica***TRACKING TOPANGA'S
TERRIFIC TURTLES**

Speaker: Rosi Dagit

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.

TUES 6/12 7:30-9:30pm*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino***LOS ANGELES RIVER
MASTER PLAN**

Speaker: Carol Armstrong

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 Chevy's Mexican Restaurant in Encino (16705 Ventura Blvd.)

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ABOVE PROGRAMS, PLEASE SEE "UPCOMING PROGRAMS" ON FRONT PAGE.

**CNPS STATEWIDE CHAPTER
COUNCIL MEETING AND
BANQUET
SATURDAY - JUNE 2**

San Luis Obispo
8:30am til 9pm

For details visit www.cnps.org

BOARD MEETINGS**TUES 5/1 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 6/5 7pm

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

HIKES AND RESTORATION**SUN 5/13 9am-1pm***Solstice Canyon*

Weed War. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and gloves; tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes and work clothes. Please call to confirm location. (818) 348-5910.

THURS 5/17 8:30am- 11:30am*Caballero Canyon, Tarzana*

Chaparral Chatter has moved and will explore the trails and byways of the valley's entrance into Topanga State Park. Bring water and snack. Meet at the lower trailhead on Reseda Blvd., 1.9 miles south of Ventura Fwy just past the fountains on the left side. 3hrs. (818) 345-6749.

THURS 5/24 10am- 1pm*Cold Creek High Trail*

Cold Creek Meanderings Pass under oak canopies, through mountain lilac tunnels and across open meadows for 3 to 5 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Lower Stunt High Trailhead 1 mile from Mulholland Highway on Stunt Road. 3 hrs. Call to confirm location. (818) 348-5910.

SUN 5/27 10am- noon*Malibu Bluffs Park***Post-Fire Bluffs Ramble to the Sea**

Hike trails with great mountain and ocean views, look for fire-followers in the burn, walk on the beach, dip your toes into the bay, look for dolphins and whales. 2-miles. 2 hours Call (310) 472-0624.

SUN 6/10 9am-1pm*Backbone Trail*

Weed War. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen and gloves; tools provided. Wear sturdy shoes and work clothes. Meet at top of Stunt. Please call to confirm location. (818) 348-5910.

THURS 6/14 8:30am - 11:30am*Caballero Canyon, Tarzana*

Chaparral Chatter has moved and will explore the trails and byways of the valley's entrance into Topanga State Park. Bring water and snack. Meet at the lower trailhead on Reseda Blvd., 1.9 miles south of Ventura Fwy just past the fountains on the left side. 3hrs. (818) 345-6749.

SUN 6/24 9:30am - 12:30pm*Solstice Canyon*

Canyon Capers Follow a beautiful streamside trail under a canopy of oaks and alders to a waterfall. Stop at the burned-out ruins of Tropical Terrace, bring lunch and water, 3-mile return. From Pacific Coast Highway, turn inland on Corral Canyon Road. Drive 0.25 mile to park entrance. 3 hrs. (818) 348-5910.

THURS 6/28 10am- 1pm*Backbone Trail*

Cold Creek Meanderings Pass under oak canopies, through mountain lilac tunnels and across open meadows for 3 to 5 miles. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Lower Stunt High Trailhead 1 mile from Mulholland Highway on Stunt Road. 3 hrs. Call to confirm location. (818) 348-5910.

Candidates for State Board Sought

CNPS encourages everyone who wishes to make a contribution to CNPS to consider service on the CNPS State Board. This spring and summer, the Leadership Development Committee will be recruiting candidates for the State Board and for officers of the Chapter Council for terms starting in January 2008.

Service on the CNPS State Board is an opportunity to put your skills to work in favor of conservation of California's natural environment. The work of the State Board is essential to the success of CNPS's programs conservation, horticulture, plant science and to the work of the CNPS chapters. Being a member of the State Board is an intensely satisfying experience and a source of pride for all members of the Board.

The CNPS State Board is open to any member of CNPS. The State Board has identified some skills sought for the Board: finance, management, and development.

Currently, two director seats are unfilled on the CNPS State Board. CNPS members seeking to make an immediate contribution as directors should contact the CNPS Leadership Development Committee (Sandy McCoy, Chair, 510-981-1991; sandymccoy@mindspring.com; Sue Britting Chair 530-295-8210; britting@earthlink.net). Vacant seats can be filled by a vote of the Chapter Council at any meeting.



LOS ANGELES • SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
 15811 Leadwell Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Shawn Bert**, La Mirada
- Jack Burnett-Stuart**, Los Angeles
- Darrell R. Clarke**, Santa Monica
- Larry Ebner**, Los Angeles
- Susanne Johnson**,
Rancho Palos Verdes
- Gloria & Sam Kim-Chung**,
Diamond Bar
- Jacquelyn Rone**, Topanga
- Stanford V. & Joanne B. Smalley**,
Palos Verdes Estates
- Janet Sporleder**, Pasadena
- Hedy Van der Fluit**, Calabasas
- Barbara Dye**, Palos Verdes Peninsula
Land Conservancy, Rolling Hills Estates
- Karin Benson**, Topanga
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- Mariko Nakanishi**, Hawthorne
- Marc Viljoen**, Long Beach
- Susanna Walters**, Topanga
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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,
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Make checks payable to CNPS.

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

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Front Page May and June Programs	Page 3 Calendar of Chapter Activities
Page 2 Remembering Rosetta Bentley	Candidates for State Board Sought

Chapter Message Phone: (818) 881-3706
 Chapter Website: www.lacnps.org or
www.lasmmcnps.org
 Chapter email: snowdy.dodson@csun.edu

See www.lacnps.org for chapter officers.