

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

November 14, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30pm  
First United Methodist Church  
Santa Monica

December 12, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30pm  
Sepulveda Garden Center  
Encino

### Creating Backyard Habitat

Speaker: Alan Pollack

Presented by Alan Pollack, a Backyard Wildlife Habitat Steward for two years, trained and certified by the National Wildlife Federation. Dr. Pollack will discuss the basic elements for creating a wildlife-friendly yard using sustainable gardening practices, ending with a virtual tour of his property, a NWF-certified habitat site. Questions are welcome.

### Members' Slide / PowerPoint Show And Tell

CNPS members are encouraged to bring slides or images in a computer file (USB flash cards or CDs) that they would like to share featuring field trips, native plant gardens, or other areas of interest. In addition, this program will feature a "slide show" (converted to PowerPoint) by the late Geoff Burleigh (see below), who left his tremendous annotated slide collection to CNPS. Books, posters and other items will be for sale.

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

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## In Memorium - Geoffrey Burleigh 1907-2006

Geoff Burleigh, a chapter member for many decades, died this past February. Born in Taunton, Somerset, England, he moved with his family to Pasadena in 1927. He was a resident of the San Fernando Valley since 1933, and worked for Pacific Telephone for 41 years. He was preceded in death by Mary, his wife of 71 years, who attended most CNPS events with Geoff.

Geoff was a persistent and diligent photographer and field trip leader for CNPS. His main "focus" was the genus *Calochortus*, and he planned and led chapter field trips to areas where his favorite monocot could be found. He left his slide collection to our chapter, but it is more than just a bunch of images. In multiple notebooks Geoff documented where every slide was photographed, and he identified each slide to genus and/or species. In addition, Geoff made special lists for his slide shows of particular areas or particular groups of plants. Geoff was way ahead of his time: he developed his own mechanical slide show system that employed two projectors and special electronics that allowed the slides to fade into each other! His collection of *Calochortus* slides is a wonderful asset, and our chapter hopes to scan all the slides and make them available through our website at [www.lacnps.org](http://www.lacnps.org). In addition to his slide collection, Geoff donated his library of over 50 plant books and two beautifully framed CNPS posters in hardwood frames that he made by himself (turns out Geoff was an excellent wood worker).



Geoff with his two projector set-up.

Linda Hardie, chapter president during the 1980's remembers: "He certainly was a very special person. I enjoyed going with him to photograph wildflowers on many occasions and I especially remember finding the *Lewisia rediviva* with him. I wasn't on the field trip that he was leading in the Southern Sierra, but he loved telling this story. Geoff said he was leading a caravan of cars on a field trip on a back country road when he heard a siren and a deputy sheriff ordering him to pull over. The deputy yelled at him: 'Why didn't you pull over and let all those cars go around you?' When Geoff explained that he was leading a field trip, the deputy quieted down. Geoff had a good laugh about it later."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCCE Land Stewardship Workshop, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Do you own or manage land that includes natural areas, including chaparral, grasslands, streams or forests? This workshop will help you assess the current condition of and the threats to your land. Topics will include watersheds, vegetation, and wildlife; invasive species; fire preparedness; caring for forested property; stream health; erosion control; and road design and maintenance. Learn more about our new Forest Stewardship curriculum and other tools to help you manage, protect, and get the most out of your property. Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:15-5:30 with social hour from 5:30-6:30, mornings in the classroom and afternoons in the field, at Franklin Canyon Park above Beverly Hills. Registration fee is \$45.00 and includes lunch and refreshments both days. For more information contact Valerie Borel at [vtborel@ucdavis.edu](mailto:vtborel@ucdavis.edu), (323) 260-3851, or visit: [http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/natural\\_resources/](http://celosangeles.ucdavis.edu/natural_resources/) To register, go directly to <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=1537>

Calabasas To Rewrite Its General Plan

Two months ago the Governor's Office notified Calabasas that a "comprehensive update" of the City's 1995 General Plan was overdue. This does not mean the current General Plan, adopted in 1995, is legally deficient, but the City plans to adopt a new General Plan and Development Code in the next two years. The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) will be established. The Committee's duties will include reviewing and refining the work plan, conducting community workshops and visioning exercises, making reports to City Council and various commissions, reviewing draft work products and making recommendations to the Commission.

Here is the current schedule.

- September, 2006 City Council will adopt a draft work plan
- November, 2006 City Council will select consultant and appoint members of General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC)
- December, 2006 GPAC meets
- January-March, 2007 Visioning workshops, community survey
- April-June, 2007 Tally survey, conduct workshops, develop plan
- July-September, 2007 Draft alternatives
- October-December, 2007 Draft EIR, General Plan, Dev. Code
- January-March, 2008 Circulate Draft EIR, Finalize Plan and Code
- April-June, 2008 Certify EIR, adopt new General Plan and Code

For more information go to [www.lvhf.org](http://www.lvhf.org) (Las Virgenes Homeowners Association).

Mansionization Threatens Listed Plants in Malibu

In the City of Malibu local residents are opposed to what is proposed at adjacent projects at 5900 Ramirez Canyon Rd. and 5801 De Butts Terrace. Both contain Coastal Sage Scrub that has been mapped as environmentally sensitive habitat (ESHA) by the Coastal Commission as part of the Local Coastal Plan the Commission wrote for the City. The City biologist, Dave Crawford, and the developer's biological consultant, Andrew Forde, claim that the Coastal Commission map is wrong and that there is no CSS ESHA onsite, or that it is too difficult to determine the boundary. In addition, CNPS-listed plants – *Baccharis plummerae* and *Juglans californica* ssp. *californica* – were found onsite.

It is reported that the Planning Commission hearings on both projects showed bias and incompetence on the part of the City staff and Planning Commissioners. For the 5900 project, staff conveniently "hid" the preliminary biology report prepared by Rincon Consultants, which the Planning Commissioners have never seen. The City biologist has seriously misstated Rincon's conclusions, and has provided no evidence to support his findings. He even went as far as to suggest to the Planning Commissioners that they should not allow submittal of reports from project opponents.

Malibu is clearly within the LA/SMM chapter's jurisdiction, but CNPS appears to be absent from reviewing such projects within the City. While each of these projects are small, they both will result in significant impacts to sensitive native vegetation, and are perhaps symptomatic of how the City is dealing with ESHA.

The 5801 project was denied by the Planning Commission but has been appealed to the City Council. The 5900 project was approved by the Planning Commission but will be appealed to the City Council. CNPS should weigh in on these projects to go on record that native plants and plant communities are important, and should be protected, and that proper assessment protocols should be followed by the city on all such projects that have potential to be adverse impacts.

If anyone in the City of Malibu or vicinity would like to find out how they can help regarding this issue, please contact the editor. ([naturebase@aol.com](mailto:naturebase@aol.com))

MANY THANKS TO PLANT SALE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to everyone who attended and especially those who volunteered at our sale on October 14 & 15 including: Patricia (Patty) Jones - set up and accommodations; Barbara Turner, Betsey Landis, and Frank Landis - seeds; Henrietta and Bill Yuan - food; Tammy Lee, Christine Walker - helpers (Christine also donated beautiful note cards with exquisite photos taken by her that sold well); Steven Hernandez - floor sales; Chris Meyer, set up and floor sales; Trish Meyer behind-the-scene help; Ileene Anderson, set up and floor sales; Melanie Hartman - setup; Leslie Hartman, Snowdy Dodson - hospitality and plant cashier; Vicki Edwards - hospitality; Henry Carlton - hospitality; Sid Mendel - hospitality, box supplier, book sales; Sandra Glover - set up; Donna Timlin - set up; David Hollombe - set up, scientific assistance;

Jo Kitz - bookstore; Olga - books; Bob Sussman - floor sales and supplier of plants. Thanks also to our vendors and exhibitors. Diane Gilbert showed and sold beautiful ceramics and flower holders; Peter and Sylvia Asco sold their native plant t-shirts; Margaret Huffman gave two lectures on how to attract birds to your garden; Muriel Kotin, Pam Hoffman, Carolyn Oppenheimer, and Donna Timlin of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society provided a fine display; and Nancy Hellsley provided the display from the Cold Creek Docents. We sold 36 of 50 "Encelia Botanicals - handmade soaps" provided by Kathy LaShure of the new Creosote Ring Chapter of CNPS. The proceeds from our sales help fund CNPS staff that work on chapter conservation issues.

THANKS! Halli Mason and Steve Hartman

## PROGRAMS

TUES 11/14 7:30-9:30pm

*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*

## Creating Backyard Habitat

Speaker: Dr. Alan Pollack

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 12/12 7:30-9:30pm

*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*

## Members' Slide and Power Point Show And Tell

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.

## BOARD MEETINGS

TUES 11/7 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

TUES 12/5 7pm

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

## HIKES AND RESTORATION

WED 11/8 9am-Noon

*Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve*

Overview and History of Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area and Native Plants  
Steve Hartman will lead a field trip into the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. The cottonwood leaves should be turning yellow providing natural fall color. Meet at the amphitheatre / restroom entrance area of the Wildlife Reserve. Directions: the entrance road is between Burbank and Victory Blvds. on the east side of Woodley Avenue. Look for signs to the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant and Wildlife Reserve; drive east until the road ends in the parking lot for the Wildlife Reserve. Bring hat, water, and boots. Heavy rain cancels. If you have a question, call (818) 881-3706.

SUN 11/12 9am

*Tapia Park*

Habitat Restoration Day This weed war will focus on ivy and vinca that destroy habitat and prevent the natural return of California bunch grasses and wildflowers. Credit for community service hours. *Reservations required.* (818) 348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored with the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

THURS 11/16 8:30am

*Cold Creek Preserve*

Chaparral Chatter Explore the riparian, grassland, and redshank communities. There will be few wildflowers this time of year, but the moderately-paced hike is beautifully varied in its topography with a year-round stream, towering oaks, open chaparral, multitude of birdsongs and beautiful vistas. (800 ft. elevation gain.) Hiking boots, hat, water, snack and sun screen suggested. Meet Lower Stunt High Trail. 4hrs. (818) 345-6749 Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 11/26 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 early blooming shrubs. 2hrs (818) 782-9346.

SAT 12/2 10am-3pm

*Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve*

Fall Festival

Have you ever seen the lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve with its trails and wildlife lake? The many birds that visit here in winter? The cottonwood and willow trees starting to shed golden leaves in late fall? Bring the whole family to take a guided tour through the Wildlife Reserve. You will be able to look at the birds through binoculars and pond life through microscopes at viewing points. Experts will show you the special trees, plants and water. See November 8 event for directions. Meet at the amphitheatre next to the restrooms. Activities: Set aside time to savor the day. Why not bring a picnic lunch? In addition to guided tours from 10:00 - 3:00, there will be special activities from noon to 2:00 in the amphitheater area including crafts for kids, live critters and displays. More Information: Muriel Kotin at (310) 457-5796. Co-sponsored by our chapter with San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

SUN 12/10 9am

*Malibu Creek State Park*

Habitat Restoration Day Care and maintenance of the CNPS Commemorative Oaks Grove. Credit for community service hours. *Reservations required* (818) 348-5910. 4hrs. Co-sponsored with the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

THURS 12/14 8:30am

*Cold Creek Preserve*

Chaparral Chatter See Nov 16 for details. Hiking boots, hat, water, snack and sun screen suggested. Meet Lower Stunt High Trail. 4hrs. (818) 345-6749 Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 12/31 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 early wildflowers. 2hrs (310) 472-0624.

## Theodore Payne Foundation Events

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

Saturday, November 4 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Native Plant Horticulture

Landscape Designer Cassy Aoyagi teaches the basics of gardening with California native plants, including pruning, proper watering, soil analysis, location evaluation, and the fundamentals of garden design. \$50 for TPF members, \$65 for non-members.

Saturday, November 11 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Uses of California Native Plants by the Native People

Learn about the different environments and communities and how people relate to their environment. Discover how the native people use nature for food, shelter, music and spiritual beliefs. Students will make bracelets using traditional (Yucca plant) and non-traditional materials. Instructor Oscar Ortiz is a cultural/environmental specialist working in the Santa Monica Mountains and has been a docent for over 20 years and is affiliated with several Chumash organizations. \$30 for TPF members, \$40 for non-members.

# Tree Hacking, Bush Wacking, Anal Retentive Lawn Maintenance and Solid Waste Landfill Environmental Tragedies

Wayne T. Williams, PhD

## PART 1\*. Pollarding

California is suffering from an epidemic of bad horticulture in the landscape. Behind every planned landscape in the state, there is an army of tree hackers, bush wackers, and compulsive lawn mowers, who treat the plants around us like the Taliban; targets for cutting, wounding, terrorizing and just plain slaughter. In the urban scene, people plant almost all of the plants you see. Native California plants, especially in Southern California, are not used extensively in landscape architecture. Consequently, a plethora of exotic species, many from other Mediterranean climates, substitute for many reasons. Almost all of these trees and shrubs and grasses are mismanaged; from monoculture, over watering, over fertilizing, to just obvious misuse.

The worst plague of misuse is the pruning process called pollarding. Pollarding in the state malforms thousands upon thousands of trees, endangering public health, and disfiguring the landscape. Pollarding is the practice of severe pruning. It started in France, where trees along busy boulevards and some crowded parks were severely cut back every year or two to keep a balance between roots and shoots which need a ratio of about 1:1. The result of all this pollarding in California is hundreds of thousands of victims with numerous weakened and swollen branches that look like Cro Magnon cave-bear clubs. Because of the repeated severe pruning, pollarded trees have many scars prone to diseases and insect attack. Worse is the proliferation of numerous branches. They invariably are weak, and crowded, preventing normal growth and encouraging pests. Incorrect pruning practices shorten the life of trees, uglify the landscape, and create hazardous trees whose limbs are prone to windfall and decay. The pollarded trees have a constant need for tending. Once pollarding begins, trees have to be cut back perennially for the life of the tree, or until the pollarding finally stops. It costs a lot of money to do this damage.

When trees along boulevards and parking lots are selected for their shape and normal size to fit into the landscape (sic Ian McHarg Design with Nature), then there is no need for severe, expensive, perennial pruning. The trees are selected for their values of size, shape, flowering periods, fruit, or lack thereof, and ability to integrate into the scene and lend the values of trees and their beauty for a long time with minimal care and greatest value. Healthy, vigorous trees and plants around us lend a sense of stability, harmony and peace of mind.

An indirect result of mismanagement of our urban trees is that the prunings weigh a lot. On a collective basis, for example, the County of San Diego over the years has dumped millions of tons of pruning debris into landfills. Several surveys completed of waste composition at San Diego County landfills showed that between 15 and 27 percent of the landfill garbage is composed of yard prunings and clippings. At 4.2 million tons per year gross solid waste

contributions in the county, yard waste amounts to between 630,000 and 1,134,000 tons.

Composting is a good method to deal with the excess pruning, and processed mulch is excellent to be used for erosion control and sanitary cover for the garbage, but if the trees were not massacred, butchered and mismanaged, they would produce far less prunings (garbage) and the solution to running out of landfill space would be significantly solved. Pruning correctly, or at much greater intervals, will significantly reduce the landfill tonnage, help beautify our county, and solve this enormous environmental problem. In its plans to solve the solid waste problems of California, the California Integrated Waste Management Board chose "reduction of waste" as the number one priority for reaching a solution. Stopping hacking and whacking of our vegetative landscapes would reduce millions of tons annually in the state.

As a first step in this reduction, pollarding should be outlawed. Tree species should be selected properly for their particular planting niche, and be allowed to reach their natural extent of growth. I am not implying that there isn't a lot of fine landscape practice, only that the majority is pathetic.

One example of the recoverability of pollarded trees was the California sycamore in my son's front lawn. All the sycamores in his neighborhood, including his, had been severely pollarded. I recommended to my son that he simply choose the 3 or 4 best limbs and shape them once, and that the tree would attain its natural form and shape and extent of growth without any more pruning. He followed my instructions. Now that tree is the best in the neighborhood. Almost all the other trees have to be pruned all the time, costing thousands of dollars, and a great deal of trouble. But his management is catching on. Now other neighbors are starting to prune correctly, and they are saving money! The sycamore grew to its potential in his lawn, and now is slowing growth significantly and naturally, as it fits into its niche. The leaves are a fine source of compost for his flower and vegetable garden. Pruning has an important place in horticulture, generally for fruit species. Trees growing in utility right of ways, along highways, and other places need to be managed, but not hacked and whacked.

\* Part 2 will appear in the next issue of TOYON

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Contributions from the Black Apple Institute  
5605 Friars Rd # 325 San Diego CA92110

About the author: Dr. Wayne Williams received his PhD from the University of California at Davis in Plant Pathology, and specialized in forest and tree pathology with the U.S Forest Service and in his own small nursery, landscape design and installation business in northern California. Dr. Williams worked in 19 different countries in forest management, forest tree nursery development, and fruit tree orchards. He is the author of about 250 published articles, more than one hundred of which are found in the scientific and governmental press. Currently he is Recycling Coordinator for the County of San Diego and is trying to reduce organic refuse loads into landfills by convincing people to produce less biomass waste. The Black Apple Institute is his consulting group.

## Commemorative Oaks

The land of southern California that is now protected as California State Parks parkland was once pristine. But that was well over 200 years ago. With the introduction of our European civilization, the richest and most accessible lands were taken over for agriculture, homesteading and industry. The oak and mixed riparian forests gave way to agriculture and development. The oak savannahs became sheep and cattle ranches and this introduction of foraging animals prevented young tree seedlings from reaching maturity, changed the understory of the remaining trees and replaced the native perennial grasses with the annual European grasses which gave the state the nickname of the Golden State.

Malibu Creek State Park is a prime example of the above dynamic. The park has outstanding geological features that distinguish it from other areas of the Santa Monica Mountains. It is the southernmost limit of the valley oak *Quercus lobata*. A wide range of birds, animals and insects find food and shelter in the park. Several plant communities are well represented: chaparral, coastal sage scrub, freshwater marsh, oak savannah, oak forest, riparian forest, grassland. The latter four communities have been most altered by man's use of the land. However, on the hillsides, oak woodlands and forests of the coast live oak *Quercus agrifolia* have survived.

The idea of reclaiming oak woodlands, savannahs and forests from vast expanses of Mediterranean mustard and ripgut became a working project in 1992 with the introduction of the Commemorative Oaks program under the direction of CNPS member, Jo Kitz, who is program director for the non-profit Mountains Restoration Trust. Under the program, groups are encouraged to create Commemorative Groves and CNPS was the first group to respond. The CNPS grove started in 1994 with two oak trees in memory of Dr. June Latting and Dr. Hollombe (David's father).

Experience taught that the trees' best chance for survival is to start by directly planting an acorn. The roots are protected from gophers and voles with underground wire cages. Their first growth and leaves are protected inside 3-foot tree shields while they develop a root system. The trees are claiming their position in the ecosystem as the keystone species – Audubon reports an increase in birdlife and native plants are running the ripgut out. Returning species include milkweed, western ragweed, golden bush, poverty weed, coyote bush, cudweed aster, purple

needle grass, creeping rye, salt grass, turkey mullein, wand buckwheat, twiggly-wreath plant, mugwort, verbena, coffeeberry, rose and blackberry. The CNPS grove is on the Torpin Plain of Malibu Creek State Park. From the parking lot, follow the main road (Craggs Road) which becomes The High Road – the famous oak-lined roadway. These enormous trees were planted in the early 1900's along the road to a private hunting lodge. Cross the bridge over Malibu Creek and bear left. The CNPS grove is midway between the three large trees on the plain. This area was the heavy equipment maintenance and storage facility for 20th Century Fox during its filming days so the soil is not always the most suitable for oak trees. However, this year, the vinegar weed held forth in abundance, and cudweed aster bloomed all summer long. There are areas with good rich soil, and the trees planted there are well doing very well.

Everyone is invited/encouraged to join the CNPS Weed Warriors on December 10 for another planting day. This year we will be remember Geoff Burleigh, Lu Haas ( who, when retired from his political life, became an avid naturalist and trip leader), Sandy Wohlgenuth, and Frank Hovore.. Meet in the parking lot at 9am.

The people who are remembered are in the following list.

1994 - Dr. June Latting, Dr. Hollombe;

1995 - Halli Mason's mother;

1996 - Dr. Mildred Mathias, Clara Shivers (donated 18 boxes of books), Lee Haines, Dede Gilman, Leo Kusak, Nick Lodato;

1997 - Dr. Harold M. Woo, Henrietta Yuan's father, George Clark, Irene Rask;

2001 - Mary DeDecker, Bob Ornduff, Lindsay Wilhelm's mother;

2004 - Grace Heinz, Nancy Dale, Tina Kasbeer, Mary Burleigh, Tom O'Connor, Kate Van der Kar, Clyde Ade, Marge Feinberg, Mel Swift, Marvin Cheseboro, Sue Nelson, Candy Craig, Mr. Malkin;

2005 - Nonnie Korten of LAUSD - school gardens;

2006 - Ken Klementis, Ed Peterson;

2007 - Geoff Burleigh, Lu Haas (2004), Doris Hoover, Sandy Wohlgenuth, and Frank Hovore

### CHAPTER MEMBER'S BALLOT FOR CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY LOS ANGELES / SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2006-2007

Vote for each office. See reverse side for candidate statements. We have no contested offices, but it is important that members of our chapter vote support of our Chapter's goals and programs. After voting, mail the ballot to CNPS, 4728 Rosita Place, Tarzana, California 91356. December 1, 2006, is the deadline for mailing.

#### PRESIDENT

Snowdy Dodson

#### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Jo Kitz & Halli Mason

#### CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE

Betsey Landis

#### SECRETARY

Henrietta Yuan

#### TREASURER

Steve Hartman

*Thanks so much for voting! Cut out this ballot, insert in an envelope and mail.*

**TRIANGLE RANCH DEVELOPMENT  
UPDATE - Application Denied**

On September 20, 2006 the L.A. County Regional Planning Commission denied the Triangle Ranch development application. The Triangle Ranch is a 320 acre development in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles, located near Kanan Road south of the 101 freeway. The applicant is expected to appeal to the LA County Board of Supervisors; so the battle is not yet over. The community is also expected to mount another strong opposition to the application.

At the hearing yesterday, Commissioner Helsley led the meeting through a discussion of the application and its (non) compliance with the North Area Plan (NAP). The staff report also identified many issues of noncompliance. Although several of the commissioners were looking for "wiggle room" (their words), members of the community reminded the commission during testimony that the NAP was specifically designed to remove the "wiggle room" from various plans and general plans. Fortunately the commission Chairman Modugno and Commissioner Helsley agreed that the NAP was intended to be interpreted conservatively.

Following a weak rebuttal by the applicant, Commissioner Helsley led the way with a motion to deny the application. The motion passed 5-0 and the Triangle Ranch application was denied. This ruling by the commission upholds LA County's commitment to enforce the rules and guidelines put forth in the North Area Plan! A special thank you to everyone who invested their time and resources to develop the North Area Plan. It is working to protect Santa Monica Mountains.

Excerpted from the Las Virgenes Homeowners' Association newsletter.

**Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority  
to Manage Antelope Valley Open Space**

Antelope Valley land set aside to preserve wildlife and open space will be managed by a new governmental agency. The Desert and Mountain Conservation Authority was formed by the state's Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District.

According to Jim Dodson, a retired Edwards Air Force Base official who is board president of the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District, "It's a need we're trying to fill. We looked around for the best way to do it." The authority will take in land that has been provided by developers or government agencies in exchange for permission to build on desert acreage that is habitat for species such as burrowing owls, Mohave ground squirrels or alkali mariposa lilies (*Calochortus striatus*).

Ritter Ridge, the spine of land that runs south of Rancho Vista Boulevard west of 30th Street West, is slated to be the first land to be taken in. The land is to be donated by developer Andrew Eliopoulos, whose Joshua Ranch housing project is under construction there, and will include both an existing trail system as well as other open space.

The board members will include Dodson and author, wildflower expert and long-time LA/SMM chapter member Milt Stark, representing the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District. Representing the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy will be Santa Clarita parks, recreation and community services director Rick Gould and Dave Myerson. Dodson thought it a good idea for the Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District to join forces with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, which was created by state lawmakers in 1980 to preserve parkland.

**CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS FOR CHAPTER ELECTION**

**SNOWDY DODSON: PRESIDENT**

Snowdy has completed one term as President of our Chapter and is willing to continue on. She has previously held the position of President for SEAL (Science and Engineering Academic Librarians). She has been active at the Chapter level of CNPS by co-chairing the Wildflower Show for 5 years; she has worked as a volunteer at the plant sale (3 years); she has led field trips at the Malibu Bluffs State Park; she has participated in our chapter weed wars at Malibu Bluffs Park, Malibu Creek State Park, and also helped the Channel Islands CNPS chapter with a restoration project; she has helped with the TOYON; during the past two years she has served as Chapter alternate representative to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee and attended field trips.

**BETSEY LANDIS: CHAPTER COUNCIL DELEGATE TO STATE CNPS**

I am nominating myself for the office of Chapter Council Delegate for the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of California Native Plant Society. State CNPS has many urgent issues that need to be resolved in the coming year.

**JO KITZ: CO-VICE PRESIDENT**

Jo has served as treasurer, president and vice president of the chapter. Since the 1980s Jo has served as the 'general' of the weed warriors, those sturdy volunteers who clear resource lands of non-native invasive species. She works at the Mountain Restoration Trust, a local land trust that owns over 2000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains and has 30 years of volunteer service towards the resource protection of the Santa Monica Mountains.

**HALLI MASON: CO-VICE PRESIDENT**

Halli Mason has been an active member of CNPS since the early 80s, first on the local chapter level then for many years serving on the Executive Council. Halli has also been elected to bring her knowledge and people skill to many different committees. She has been an effective fund raiser motivating many CNPS members to work with her in the Earth Share campaigns (Earth Share of California is the Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment). Halli has worked with Jo Kitz, co-vice president candidate and the two women work well together.

**HENRIETTA YUAN: SECRETARY**

I will run again this year for Secretary having been in this position for over twenty years.

**STEVE HARTMAN: TREASURER**

I have been handling the finances for the chapter for well over a decade I'd like to contribute to the chapter by continuing to handle the chapter finances. My other chapter activities include serving as newsletter editor, co-plant sale chair, and representing our chapter on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee.

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**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.  
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## Invasive Plant Killer Faces Misdemeanor Charges

Robert "Roy" van de Hoek has been charged with six misdemeanor charges that include "injuring vegetation without permission" for killing a ficus tree and myoporum shrubs in one of the largest coastal wetlands in Southern California. Each count could bring thousands of dollars in fines and possible jail time.

According to Noaki Schwartz, an Associated Press writer, van de Hoek said, "I love the wetlands and I care about the endangered species that live there, the plants and animals." But Schwartz also reported that Frank Mateljan of the city attorney's office stated that, "Trimming and landscaping isn't done without authorization from government agencies."

And that is a real problem. Since the awareness has been developed that non-native trees and shrubs are taking over our wild areas (or restoration projects), sometimes what a CNPSer might consider a "good deed" is considered a crime by law enforcement agencies.

*Myoporum laetum*, a shrub or small tree from New Zealand, for example, is a hardy species with waxy green leaves that can crowd out less vigorous native plants that are home to various animals. And the leaves and fruits are toxic. Sounds like Roy should be getting an award.

Fortunately Van de Hoek arrived for an arraignment along with well-known attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. After the case was postponed, Mesereau would only say that his client would plead not guilty. According to the Associated Press report, one of van de Hoek's friends and supporters, Denny Schneider, wearing a "Free Roy" T-shirt with a picture of van de Hoek strolling around the Ballona Wetlands in Playa del Rey, said, "This is an attempt to intimidate the environmentalists."

Even in areas such as the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, City officials have been quite wary when it comes to cutting down non-native trees, as sometimes the public will create an uproar when large eucalyptus trees are removed.

About a decade ago Roy was arrested in San Luis Obispo County for a similar alleged crime, but the non-native victims were eucalyptus trees in the Carrizo Plain National Monument, where Roy had worked as a wildlife biologist. He was eventually convicted of vandalism and sentenced to three years' probation.

According to the Associated Press report, after reaffirming a commitment to nature, van de Hoek broke into song, borrowing a refrain from his favorite singer, John Denver.

"I am the eagle and I live in the high country and rocky cathedrals that reach to the sky," he sang "All those who see me and all who believe in me share in my freedom I feel when I fly."

### More on Ballona Wetlands

The draft existing conditions report is posted on the Ballona Wetlands project website:

<http://www.scc.ca.gov/Ballona/index.html>

Click on "Documents" page. The report is broken into a number of files to make it easy to download.

## Local Environmental Movement Loses Two Key Figures

It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of two key environmental leaders in our community. Sanford "Sandy" Wohlgemuth died in September at the age of 90. His vigorous and articulate advocacy put conservation at the top of the Los Angeles Audubon Society's agenda. He never let us ignore or forget the constant threats our natural environment faces, and he told us what we have to do to defend it. As an activist, he showed by example how to fight for nature in our own neighborhoods.

Perhaps his greatest single success was achieved in his own backyard, in the Sepulveda Flood Control Basin. Much of this last open space in the San Fernando Valley was wanted for such facilities as a racetrack, an Olympic Stadium and rowing course (along the LA River), a polo field, and a multi-building Theatre and Arts complex. These massive developments were fought off by a coalition of environmentalists (including Sandy) and irate local residents (also including Sandy). The Army Corps of Engineers, which owns the Sepulveda Basin, had set aside a couple of parcels on the west side of the basin as a wildlife area, but for a long time it was just a barren vacant lot with a scooped-out hole that occasionally filled with water and attracted birds. When the state finally approved a grant that would provide for a permanent pond with some planting, Sandy helped organize a consortium of environmental groups that included two Audubon Societies (LAAS and SFV) and the California Native Plant Society, to help keep the area clean and monitor the birds and wildlife. Sandy put together a proposal that formed the basis of the Sepulveda Consortium endowment, to fund restoration and improvement of the habitat, including the Hummingbird Hill native plant area. Another polluter's judgment award was obtained to endow an educational program for elementary school students, which has brought environmental science education to thousands of children since 1993. The funding also provided signage, trails, and more planting and restoration of native habitat.

When you explore the Sepulveda Wildlife area today, admiring its birds and plants, keep in mind that without Sandy Wohlgemuth's initiative and leadership, it would probably still be a degraded wasteland or a polo field. And no children would learn anything from it.

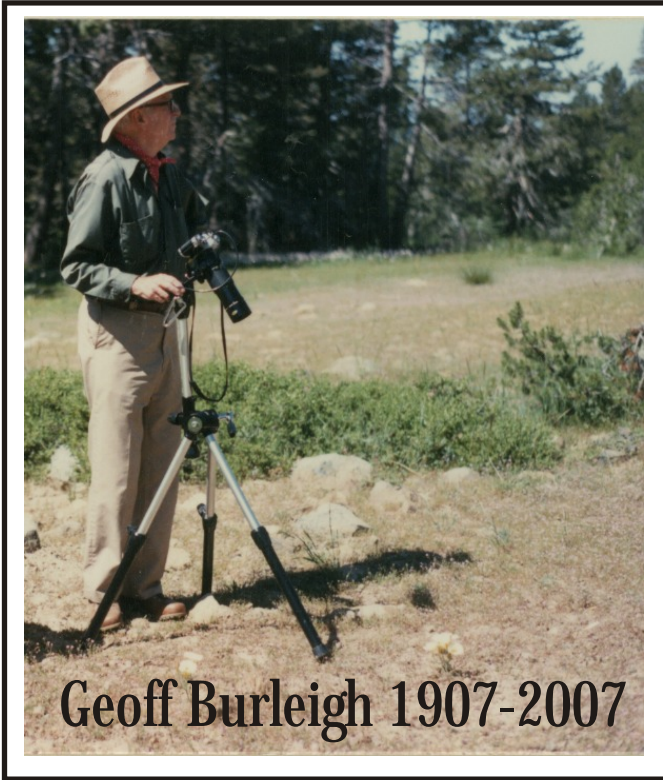
Our other loss is the unexpected death of Frank Hovore, a local biologist who died collecting beetles in Ecuador in October. Frank started the Placerita Canyon Nature Center organization from a school bus in the park. LA/SMM chapter member Judy Garris writes: "Frank devotedly volunteered his time to many environmental causes. Once we worked together on a tour of the Santa Susana Mountains for an LA River watershed project. While we waited for participants, he told me that he personally walked the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills to officially map the Significant Ecological Area of the watershed for the wildlife corridor that connects the Angeles National Forest and the Los Padres National Forest with the Santa Monica Mountains."

"After the fire in the Simi Hills, the wild cucumber quickly spread over the hillsides, the bright leaves contrasted against the blackened slopes. Frank pointed out that the roots of the wildcucumber held the soil in place, protecting it from erosion and shading the ground so that slower growing natives had a better chance to grow. We will miss Frank."



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### YES on Proposition 84 – Park Bond Act

PROPOSITION 84 is on the November ballot. It would authorize the sale of \$5.4 billion in state bonds for flood control, improved water quality, stream restoration, community planning, and wildlife and forest conservation. Included in Prop 84 is \$15 million to preserve “oak woodlands,” \$45 million for “Santa Monica Bay watersheds,” \$135 million for “wildlife,” \$400 million for local parks, another \$400 million for state parks, and \$135 million for the State Coastal Conservancy.

### NO on Proposition 90

The other ballot initiative that could have a big impact on wildlife in California is Proposition 90. It claims to promote “property fairness,” but instead it would open loopholes for irresponsible development in California.

If passed, Prop. 90 would roll back protections for wildlife that depend on wetlands, old growth forests and our coastlines. Prop. 90 would also jeopardize the health and well-being of our environment, since it will lead to runaway sprawl and unmanaged growth. This means more traffic, more pollution and more fragmented habitat.

We urge you to vote NO on Proposition 90. It is a vote in favor of protecting California's wildlife heritage.