



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

September 12, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
First United Methodist Church
Santa Monica

Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens

Speaker: Betsey Landis

Betsey will discuss the best methods for establishing and maintaining a healthy native plant garden. Bring your questions! This information and much more is contained in *Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plants*, a newly published English-Spanish book written by Bart O'Brien, Betsey Landis and Ellen Mackey and published by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The books will be available for purchase at the meeting. CNPS members will receive a 20% discount for books purchased at the meeting.

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

October 10, 2006 – 7:30 - 9:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center
Encino

Healing with Native Plants

Speakers: James Adams and Cecilia Garcia

James Adams is a Professor of Pharmacology at USC and Cecilia Garcia is a Chumash healer. They will discuss which native plant species are useful for maintaining good health, which parts of the plants have medicinal properties if properly used and answer questions about growing and harvesting these plants.

Their book, *Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West - Cultural and Scientific Basis for their Use*, will be available for sale at the meeting.

President's Message

Greetings to you all and welcome to what promises to be an eventful fall season for the CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter. The first special event is our annual garden party on Saturday, September 16. Our honored guest will be Amanda Jorgenson, CNPS Executive Director. Please sign up using the enclosed reservation form; your reservation will be confirmed with directions to the dinner party.

On October 14 and 15, I know we will see you at the Chapter's much anticipated Fall Plant Sale. As usual the sale is scheduled both days from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino. This is your big chance to purchase California natives for your own garden plots. Chapter gardening experts will be on hand to advise you concerning your plant selections. We also welcome all volunteer helpers for the days of the sale as well as for setup on the afternoon on Friday, October 13; call (818) 881-3706 to help out. The flyer for the plant sale is enclosed for further details. Proceeds from this plant sale will be used to sponsor our Chapter special activities.

While I am on the subject of sponsorship of Chapter special activities, I will mention the planning resulting from the CNPS Southern California Conservation Conference on June 17 of this year. Of particular note are the plans by Southern California CNPS chapters to recruit a staff person to help with conservation and botanical issues for our region. The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter together with other chapters will contribute funds to jointly hire someone to assist with the many issues faced by the Southern California region. We will continue to update you with the details for this position as they become available.

Real estate development continues to have an adverse impact on our native plant resources here in Southern California. I urge you to support efforts to preserve open space throughout our region. Saving areas such as Tejon Ranch and the Gorman wildflower fields will require a team effort by all of us. Last month the *Tejon* reported that funds are needed to get the Gorman planning jump started. Folks, it's time to break out your checkbooks and send donations to: Dan Silver, Executive Director, Endangered Habitats League, 8424-A Santa Monica Blvd., #592, Los Angeles, CA 90069-4267. Also we all need to focus on saving Tejon Ranch by writing letters and donating funds through the Center for Biological Diversity's web site: http://actionnetwork.org/campaign/Tejon_Park. Grass roots efforts preserved Soka and Ahmanson Ranch open space; we can do the same for Gorman and Tejon if we all pitch in.

Finally, I would like to send belated thanks to all the volunteers who made the Wildflower Show at Malibu Bluffs Park such a success in April. The wildflower display was exceptional, and we had a wonderful turnout for the show and related activities such as the plant sale, the wildflower walks, and the other displays. Wildflower Show co-chairs, Trish Meyer and Sheila Bjornlie, join me in their appreciation of the many people who contributed time and energy to this annual event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Become a Docent Naturalist!

32nd annual docent training offered by Topanga Canyon Docents. Learn the natural history of the Santa Monica Mountains and how to share this knowledge with others. Six sessions led by notable resource specialists will be held on alternate Saturdays starting Saturday September 16 at 9:30 a.m. \$50 fee includes membership and continuing learning opportunities. Information: Beverly Weil (818) 758 1964.

Southern California Botanists Symposium features the Santa Monica Mountains on October 28

Every year the Southern California Botanists hold a symposium at The Ruby Gerontology Center California State University, Fullerton, in late October. This year's SCB Symposium focuses on the natural history and flora of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The symposium will include:

- Introduction to the Natural & Cultural History of the Santa Monica Mountains. Philip Rundel (Professor UCLA)
- Lichens of the Santa Monica Mountains. Kerry Knudsen (UC Riverside Herbarium)
- Bryophytes of the Santa Monica Mountains. Paul Wilson (Professor, Cal State, Northridge) and Tarja Sagar (NPS bryologist)
- Revision of the Santa Monica Mountains Flora. Update on species status and the effort to create an extensive web-based flora. Art Gibson (Professor, UCLA) and Barry Prigge (UCLA Herbarium)
- Vegetation Communities of the Santa Monica Mountains and their relationship to other southern California vegetation. Todd Keeler-Wolf (State Vegetation Ecologist)
- Wildfire Influences on Vegetation in the Santa Monica Mountains. Steve Davis (Professor, Pepperdine) and/or Marti Witter (NPS fire ecologist) and/or Robert Taylor (NPS Fire GIS Specialist)
- Interactive Effects of Freezing and Drought on the Distribution of Chaparral Shubs. Steve Davis (Professor, Pepperdine)
- Rare, Threatened and Endangered plants of the Santa Monica Mountains – their Status and Efforts Toward Conservation and Recovery. Christy Brigham (NPS Restoration Ecologist), Jolene Pucci (Cal State Northridge Grad Student), Ann Dorsey (Cal State Northridge Grad Student)

More details and sign-up at www.socalbot.org

Santa Monica Mountains: A Jewel Within

Aug. 21- Sept. 28, 2006 at the CSUN Oviatt Library
 Los Angeles is the only major city in the world whose population is nearly evenly divided by a major mountain range. In the midst of millions, the Santa Monica Mountains stand as a rugged and beautiful bastion for all to explore. An exhibit at CSUN explores how the Santa Monica Mountains, thrust from the ocean, contain multiple ecosystems, each hosting a diverse set of plants and animals. The display demonstrates how Native Americans flourished in this rich bounty. It describes enticing hiking trails for today's explorers, and tells an heroic story of how community activism saved and protected the mountain's natural resources.

See <http://library.csun.edu> for library hours and location, etc.

Hello from the Plant Sale Co-Chairs

While I am writing this, temperatures are still in the 3-digit range. October should bring somewhat more moderate temperatures, and it will be time to resume our long-neglected garden chores. Summer dormancy will be over.

Some chores might be to pull out those leggy evening primroses, cut back that rambunctious buckwheat, and thin the yarrow. Or perhaps you might want to try a few new native plants in an area in your garden that you have ignored for sooo long. Or you might even want to say goodbye to your front lawn and give some natives a chance to prove themselves. Be different from your neighbor.

This year's California Native Plant Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The location, like usual, is the Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Avenue, in Encino, between Hayvenhurst and Balboa, parallel to and just south of the #101 freeway.

We will have a good selection, and we will also be offering an extensive selection of seeds. We have invited some vendors to sell jewelry, ceramic vessels and hand-made soaps. There will be booths with lots of educational material on environmental and ecological issues. Teachers will have an opportunity to pick up lots of freebies for their classrooms. Come browse our book store.

And, of course, we need help. We need volunteers to help Friday afternoon to set up, all day or just a few hours Saturday and Sunday. You don't have to know anything about native plants. The tasks are quite varied. Call our recorded message at (818) 881-3706 and one of us will get in touch with you.

Thank you and see you in October.

Halli Mason (and Steve Hartman)

DOWNLOAD FOR YOU

NatureServe Explorer Website Launched

NatureServe announced the debut of U.S. invasive species assessments on their website, *NatureServe Explorer*: <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>. There you'll find assessments for a total 452 non-native plants of the U.S., searchable by name, location, invasive impact rank (I-Rank), or a combination of these criteria. You can determine which non-native plants in your area have been ranked "High" impact, or which are still "Unknown." (For those unfamiliar with the NatureServe Explorer site: choose to "search the database for species" and then use the "Location" and "Status" tabs that you'll see at the top of the page.) You can read the entire assessment for any species. NatureServe is thrilled to finally have these assessments integrated with their other data in a searchable format. They are especially grateful to the Federal Highway Administration for supporting this addition to their Explorer site. NatureServe is welcoming feedback on the website. Contact Kat Maybury; Director, Botany Department; NatureServe; 1101 Wilson Blvd., 15th floor; Arlington, VA 22209; (703) 908-1882; kat_maybury@natureserve.org; www.natureserve.org; www.natureserve.org/explorer/

PROGRAMS

TUES 9/12 7:30-9:30pm

*First United Methodist Church, Santa Monica*Care and Maintenance of
Southern California Native
Plant Gardens

Speaker: Betsey Landis

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 10/10 7:30-9:30pm

*Sepulveda Garden Center, Encino*Healing with Native
Plants

Speakers:

James Adams and Cecilia Garcia

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 9/5 7pm

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

TUES 10/3 7pm

LA/SMM CNPS Chapter Board Meeting at Jo Kitz's home, 6223 Lubao Ave., Woodland Hills. Chapter members are invited. (818) 348-5910

HIKES AND RESTORATION

SUN 9/10 9am

Santa Monica Mountains

Habitat Restoration Day An on-going weed war reduces invasive non-native species 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.

SAT 9/23 9am

Malibu Creek State Park

Habitat Restoration Day Wildflowers, native plants and grasses help young oaks grow to provide food and shelter for wildlife when non-native plants are removed. Credit for community service hours. *Reservations required* (818) 591-1701 x203. 3hrs. Co-sponsored with the Mountains Restoration Trust.

SUN 9/24 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 wildflowers. 2hrs (818) 782-9346.

SUN 10/8 9am

Backbone Trail

Habitat Restoration Day An on-going weed war reduces invasive non-native species 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 10/19 8:30am

Cold Creek Preserve

Chaparral Chatter Let's 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 10/22 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 wildflowers. 2hrs (818) 348-5910.

LA/SMM CHAPTER
PLANT SALE
OCT 14 & 15

Theodore Payne Foundation Events

10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley 91352 - (818) 768-1802

Saturday, 9/16 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Getting Started With Natives: Focus on Natives and Hardscape Solutions, Includes a Field Trip to the Instructors' Garden in Tujunga. Learn about native plants from the ground up! Ken and Rhonda Gilliland teach this introductory course on incorporating California native plants into a home garden. Topics to be covered include an overview of California's geographic diversity, definition of native plants, benefits, site assessment, tools for success and much more. Meet at Theodore Payne Foundation first. \$20 for TPF members, \$30 for non-members.

Saturday, October 7 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 (proportional scale plans, selection of native plant palette, special considerations, and helpful resources). \$50 for TPF members, \$65 for non-members.

Friday, October 13 through Sunday, October 15th, 8:30am to 4:30pm daily.

Theodore Payne Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for the annual celebration of the fall planting season for California native plants! Choose from an expanded selection of native plants in our nursery and seeds in our bookstore. Members of Theodore Payne Foundation receive 15% off plants and non-members get 10%. There will be special demonstrations and presentations, garden gifts, food, art from Botanical Artists Guild of Southern California and Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, natural soaps, garments and more. It will be a fun and informative festival.

Tejon California's Living Legacy of Native Plants by Ileene Anderson

In the heart of California, at the biogeographic crossroads where northern, southern, eastern and western ecosystems meet, lies Tejon, the richest example of California's natural heritage legacy in the state. The Tejon property spans magnificent and diverse ecosystems and encompasses over 270,750 acres at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. Here oak-dappled foothills of the southern Sierra Nevada give way to the fir-topped peaks of the Tehachapi Mountains, and onto the poppy-covered desert slopes of Antelope Valley. Descended from original Spanish land grants, Tejon is the largest private land parcel left in southern California, and hosts some of our most classic California plant communities.

Threats to the Tejon landscape are enormous. In 2003, the Tejon Ranch was identified by the California Wilderness Coalition as one of the top ten most threatened landscapes in California [<http://www.calwild.org/resources/pubs/10most.php>]. The Tejon Ranch Company has a series of piecemealed development projects proposed for significant areas of the Tejon. The currently proposed projects to date include the following three projects:

Tejon Mountain Village

Tejon Mountain Village, located in the secluded hills and canyon areas surrounding Castaic (Tejon) Lake, will impact approximately 37,000 acres of oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral and scrublands, montane hardwoods and conifers, pinyon-juniper woodlands, wet meadows and riparian woodlands. The diversity of oak species on Tejon alone is unparalleled in California. Part of the project site is visible from the Interstate 5, the bucolic valley on the east side of the freeway opposite Lebec. The proposed development is designed to fragment the pristine landscape of the Tejon by building 3,450 residential units, 750 hotel units, four golf courses and 160,000 square feet of commercial space. While the Tejon Ranch Company touts the Tejon Mountain Village as an "environmentally sensitive, light-touch" development, in fact, it is just the opposite: no basic environmentally sensitive design tenets -- from cluster development to reduced lot sizes to avoidance of rare and endangered plants and animals -- are included. The Tejon Mountain Village development would eliminate significant portions of critical habitat (i.e. native plant communities) used for foraging and roosting areas by the California condor, causing declines in this iconic California bird that glides precipitously on the brink of extinction now. Tejon Mountain Village is still in the planning stages, and not yet built.

Centennial Housing/Industrial Development

The proposed Centennial project along Highway 138 in North Los Angeles County is the largest development ever proposed in California. It will pave over 12,000 acres (approximately 19 square miles) including some of the largest, most pristine native grasslands left in California. Other plant communities that will be impacted include wetlands, juniper woodlands, oak woodlands, chaparral and scrublands. They will be replaced with approximately 23,000 houses and 14-million square feet of retail and commercial buildings.

Proposed as a "planned community" designed around a number of villages, Centennial is basically a new city, unsupported by infrastructure or public services, and isolated from any metro centers or established business areas. Absent onsite jobs, commuting to Palmdale/Lancaster, Los Angeles or Bakersfield would exacerbate traffic congestion along the already heavily traveled Interstate 5 and increase air pollution in both the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley Air Quality Basins both of which already have notoriously bad air quality. As currently proposed, the development will sever an important wildlife corridor, Oso Canyon, and eliminate most rare plants and many animals throughout the site. Centennial development is proposed by the Tejon Ranch Company in cooperation with three of the largest development developers in the nation: Standard Pacific Homes, Pardee Construction Company, and Lewis Investment Company, LLC. Centennial is also still in the planning stages, and not yet built. However, as proposed it is not the solution to California's housing needs, but in fact will degrade or eliminate intact native plant communities, cause increased gridlock on Interstate 5, increase air pollution and burden multiple municipal services due to its remoteness. It would be a sprawl development at its worst.

Tejon Industrial Complexes

The Tejon Ranch Company envisions building a mega-industrial facility along the Interstate 5 corridor in Kern County...in fact some of it is already built. Tejon Industrial Complex West is a development of big box warehouses in the middle of some of the richest agricultural lands in the world. Granted, this project did not directly effect native plant communities, but certainly eliminates any restoration of the Great Central Valley flora in this area. This industrial site on the west side of Interstate 5 brings increased diesel truck traffic, which further degrades the already bad air quality at the south end of the San Joaquin Valley adds more truck traffic to the Interstate 5 corridor from points north and south, exacerbates traffic problems in the Los Angeles basin and impacts the aging Interstate 5 infrastructure. The approved Tejon Industrial Complex East will destroy an additional 1,100 acres of farmland and grasslands on the east side of Interstate 5. The grasslands, while primarily populated with non-native grasses, host extensive native wildflower shows in the early spring. The eastern Industrial complex also severs a potentially crucial wildlife linkage along the Kern County Valley floor. No towns or housing are incorporated as part of these developments, so workers must commute significant distances even from rural communities just to reach these jobs. No public transportation services are available for these workers -- clearly an industrial sprawl project at its worst.

It makes little sense to destroy the unique values of Tejon project-by-project or to allow such piecemeal development without a master plan for Tejon Ranch. Decisions over the fate of Tejon Ranch need to be made in a public arena through a comprehensive regional planning process. To learn more about the Tejon and what you can do to help preserve Tejon for future generations, please visit www.savetejonranch.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Japanese Dodder Alert!

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has alerted us to the presence of Japanese dodder (*Cuscuta japonica*), a new invasive noxious weed, in California. Pictures of this parasitic vine can be found at http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/noxweedinfo/pdfs/jdodder_images.pdf. Since June 2004, there has been a growing number of California detections of Japanese dodder. Four counties have discovered Japanese dodder this year, bringing the total number of counties with detections to seven (Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Shasta, Yolo, and Yuba); however, most infestations have been discovered within the last six months and more are expected.

CDFA is requesting assistance from other agencies and conservation groups in locating unknown infestations in order to assess the current distribution of Japanese dodder. So far Japanese dodder has been primarily found in private residences affiliated with the Hmong culture. CDFA is especially interested in occurrences of Japanese dodder in agricultural settings and native ecosystems such as wildlands and riparian zones. Keep in mind that certain parts of the state may have abundant non-invasive native dodder, which could be mistaken for Japanese dodder.

Please take care to read the information below about how to discriminate between native and non-native dodder. If in doubt, take a sample to your local Agricultural Commissioner per instructions below.

What is Japanese dodder?

- * An exotic, potentially invasive parasitic vine recently introduced to California.
- * Broad host plant range, from annual herbaceous plants to woody trees and shrubs.
- * Rapid growth: up to six inches per day!
- * Reproduces vegetatively (through stem fragments) and by seed.
- * Native to Asia.
- * Probably introduced via Asian immigrants or visitors as an herbal remedy.

What does Japanese dodder look like?

- * Vibrant yellow-green to gold leafless vine.
- * Robust, round, twining stems that are fleshy and/or stout (1-3 mm in diameter), possibly with small red to purplish spots.
- * Mature stems are comparable in size to cooked spaghetti.
- * Unlikely to have flowers (normal flowering season is August to October).
- * If flowers are found, they will be small (3-7 mm), sessile, pale yellow to cream colored, in short, dense axillary spikes.
- * Infestations often large, spreading, and web-like. Frequently covers large shrubs and small trees.

Where is it likely to be found?

- * Currently, infestations have been found in Contra Costa County (El Cerrito, San Pablo and Richmond), Shasta County (Redding), Yuba County (Olivehurst and Marysville), Sacramento County (Sacramento), and L.A. County (L.A.).
- * Infestations are highly correlated with Asian immigrant residential neighborhoods.
- * Possibly near roads and freeways
- * Probable hosts include fruit trees and ornamental shrubs. It can occur in native plants such as willows and oaks.

How is it different from native dodder species?

- * Japanese dodder is vibrant yellow-green or gold. Native dodders are typically orange.
- * Japanese dodder has thick, robust stems. Native dodder stems are usually more thread or string-like.
- * Japanese dodder infestations are typically large, entirely covering shrubs or trees. Native dodder infestations are likely to be smaller, infecting nonwoody plants or small shrubs.
- * Japanese dodder has been found in residential areas and ornamental plantings. Native dodders are found in wildland areas or crops
- * Japanese dodder is unlikely to be found in hot, dry desert climates or at high altitudes.

If you find an infestation:

Do not attempt to remove or control it with herbicides. Document the location: GPS coordinates. If GPS is unavailable, write down the address and/or nearest cross streets and/or directions to the site. Be specific! Identify the host plant(s), if possible. Take pictures of the infestation. Collect a sample: If flowers and/or seed pods are available, include them in the sample. They may be hard to see and require close observation! If flowers and/or seed pods are unavailable, collect 1-2 ft. of stem material. Collect parts that are typical of the infestation. Include a sample of the host plant, especially with flowers and/or fruits. Place the sample in a sealed plastic bag without water. Label the sample with the collector's name, date, and location. Refrigerate sample if not sending immediately. Submit the sample to Los Angeles Agricultural Commissioner's Office at 12300 Lower Azusa Road, Arcadia, CA 91006.

ForesTree

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) in partnership with the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute (UFEI), located on the campus of California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo), is pleased to announce the release of a new online web-based resource tool titled ForesTree.

This new website tool is provided for homeowners who live in a forested native tree environment. It has been designed to provide homeowners with a simple way to first identify those native trees around them and then become acquainted with the associated pest and diseases of each tree variety that might cause harm to your treescape. ForesTree currently contains information on an assortment of over 60 insects and diseases as well as useful information on preventing harm to your trees through better tree care practices and where necessary, on obtaining further technical help when needed.

Over the last several years, Southern California forest homeowners living within our native forested ecosystems have undergone a massive change in their tree cover due to wildfire and bark beetle tree mortality. Unlike the annual loss of forest tree cover due to wildfires, native insects and diseases have and will continue to claim more annual loss in tree cover than does wildfire. Unlike wildfire loss, insects and diseases continue to harm and kill trees well beyond the wildfire event. Knowledge and prevention are key to reducing tree losses.

Helping homeowners develop a better understanding of the relationships between the health of their respective trees, and the tree's daily interactions with native insect and diseases, will result in fewer tree losses. You are encouraged to visit and bookmark this new website tool at <http://www.ufeio.org/forestree/about.html>.

Recent Changes to Botanical Nomenclature at both the Genus and Family Level

By Jean Usfamilyconfusus

For me, it all started a couple years ago when I was looking in a flower book and saw a picture of owl's clover (*Orthocarpus purpurascens*) and it was labeled *Castilleja exserta*. I chuckled to myself thinking that someone had mislabeled the photo. I later ran across another photo of a favorite plant, California fuchsia. I always liked *Zauschneria californica* because it bloomed very late in the year and was something different to see as the flower season was winding down and I was proud of myself for learning to spell *Zauschneria*. Then I saw it was labeled as *Epilobium canum*. Now, my most familiar *Epilobium* was fireweed, *Epilobium angustifolium* a 5-6 foot tall plant that looked nothing like California fuchsia. How could they be in the same genus? Well, they are not anymore. *E. angustifolium* is now *Chamerion angustifolium*. Little did I know what was going on in the lumping and splitting of my favorite plant families and genera.

The first change I investigated was the splitting of the types of owl's clover (*Orthocarpus*). The ones that look like Indian paintbrush were put in the genus *Castilleja* and others like "butter and eggs" were put into *Triphysaria* (although there still is a genus *Orthocarpus*). Then it was decided that since many of the genera in the Scrophulariaceae are semi-parasitic, they are more closely related to the plants in the Orobanchaceae which are all parasitic. So *Castilleja*, *Triphysaria*, *Cordylanthus* and *Pedicularis* are all now members of the Orobanchaceae. Upon checking into the other genera in the Scrophulariaceae, *Mimulus* (monkey flower) was found to be better placed in the Phrymaceae. What family is that you may ask? Well it is a family found in the east represented by one genus, *Phryma* which has one species in it. But if you look at the flower you will see it looks just like a monkey flower. Now most of the rest of the genera have been placed in the Veronicaceae. That would include many of the familiar plants such as *Penstemon* (beard-tongue), *Collinsia*, *Antirrhinum* (snapdragon), *Digitalis* (fox glove) and *Veronica*. (There has been disagreement on whether Veronicaceae or Plantaginaceae should be the name for the family that now includes much of the old scrophs along with *Plantago*, *Callitriche* and *Hippuris*. The Angiosperm Phylogeny site at Missouri Botanical Garden uses Plantaginaceae.) So, what does that leave for the formerly large family called Scrophulariaceae? Not much. *Scrophularia* and *Verbascum* which is a common roadside plant/weed and very little else.

That is just the tip of the iceberg as they say. The monocots have not escaped the scrutiny and another well-known family, Liliaceae, has been totally changed. The genus *Agave* has usually been put in its own family, the Agavaceae, although sometimes they were put in the Liliaceae and sometimes in the Amaryllidaceae. Now *Agave* and *Yucca* are in the Agavaceae and that seems just fine, but one (former) *Yucca*, Our Lord's Candle (*Yucca whipplei*) has been placed in a new genus, *Hesperoyucca*. When I saw the other genera that have been added to Agavaceae, it definitely caused an eyebrow raise. *Camassia* (camas), *Chlorogalum* (soapplant) and *Hesperocallis* (desert lily) have now been placed in the Agavaceae. Now the onions are distinct in their smell so *Allium* is in its own family the Alliaceae.

The Convallariaceae has two very distinct groups, the delicate forest genera like *Smilacina* (false Solomon's seal) and *Maianthemum* (false lily-of-the-valley) and the large woody desert plants in the genus *Nolina*. Melanthiaceae now includes *Veratrum* (corn lily), *Xerophyllum* (bear-grass) and *Zigadenus* (death camas), and *Trillium* (but the latter genus doesn't fit well morphologically, so some will probably continue to recognize a separate family – the Trilliaceae). The *Brodiaea* have bounced around between Liliaceae and Amaryllidaceae but they now end up in Themidaceae along with former *Brodiaeas*, *Dichelostemma* and *Triteleia*, as well as *Bloomeria* (golden stars) and even *Muilla*. *Muilla* is *Allium* spelled backwards and is similar to an onion without the onion smell hence not in the Alliaceae. *Tofieldia* (bog asphodel) rates its own family, Tofieldiaceae.

Have you ever tried to remember in what family is *Eriodictyon*? or *Nama*? Are they Hydrophyllaceae or Boraginaceae? Not a problem anymore, they are both in the Boraginaceae. In fact, all of the Hydrophyllaceae has been lumped with the Boraginaceae. The same goes for the Chenopodiaceae which now is included in the Amaranthaceae.

There are quite a few other changes: the Asclepiadaceae has been lumped with the Apocynaceae; the Brassicaceae and the Capparaceae (and now Cleomaceae) have been lumped and then split; and the maples (Aceraceae) and the buckeye (Hippocastanaceae) have been included in the Sapindaceae (soaptree family). Even the namesake genus of the CNPS journal *Fremontia* and its family Sterculiaceae have been absorbed into the Malvaceae.

And I thought it was rough when the laurel sumac changed from *Rhus* to *Malosma*!

For a much more detailed exposition on taxonomic name changes, see the April 2002 issue of *Fremontia* (Vol. 30, No. 2).

Editor's Note: Thanks to David Hollombe for reviewing the article and to an anonymous Arizona colleague whose interesting email was turned into this article.

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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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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.

SCWRP Grant Awarded to California Wetlands Research

Congratulations to John Hodder and California Wetlands Research for receiving a \$21,000 grant from the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project that is financed by the Earth Island Institute. This project will restore a perennial coastal stream filled 51 years ago as close to pre-disturbance conditions as possible. Plans for this phase include excavation of the stream course, on-site nursery construction to grow native plants required for the restoration, and an educational program involving public school students who would participate in plant propagation at the nursery and soil/water quality testing/monitoring as part of an environmental science curriculum (in-field & in-class) given by California Wetlands Research's scientists & educators. For more info contact (310) 801-1209 or on-line at www.calwetresearch.org. The photos below were taken by Mark Osokow during a late June field trip in Marquez Canyon led by John Hodder.



A view of Marquez Canyon (left) showing the filled section where an unnatural riparian environment exists adjacent to chaparral hillsides and homes; (right) happy CNPSers including (L to R) Halli Mason, Snowy Dodson, John Hodder (trip leader), Margaret Huffman, man with hat, Henry Carlton, Sue Pascoe and her son, and David Hollombe.

CHAPTER GARDEN PARTY 2006

*Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter Members and Friends
are cordially invited to our Annual Dinner during which we will have the honor
of meeting Amanda Jorgenson, CNPS Executive Director.*

*Saturday, September 16, 2006 at 5 p.m.
at the home of Halli Mason in Tarzana.*

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

please cut along this line

Reservation Form
RSVP before or on September 12, 2006

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Number of Dinner Reservations @ \$15 per person _____

Make check payable to CNPS. Mail to CNPS, 6117 Reseda Blvd. Suite H, Reseda, CA 91335

Check here if you need directions



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VOLUME 26 Number 5
 SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2006

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Chapter Message Phone: (818) 881-3706
 Chapter Website: www.lacnps.org
 Chapter email: lacnps@lacnps.org

See www.lacnps.org for chapter officers.
 TOYON Edited by Steven L. Hartman
naturebase@aol.com

CHAPTER BOARD OFFICER NOMINATIONS REQUESTED

We are seeking candidates for offices on the chapter board. The term of office is one year. You may nominate yourself or be nominated by another chapter member (with your permission) for the office of president, chapter delegate, vice president, secretary or treasurer of the chapter board of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter. Chapter officers are expected to attend monthly meetings, usually held on the first Tuesday of the month. In addition to the monthly meetings the chapter delegate is expected to attend four statewide CNPS chapter council meetings held at various locations around the State.

The qualifications are:

1. Candidates must affirm they are members in good standing of Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains (LA/SMM) Chapter – that their dues are paid up.
2. Candidates must be active or have been active in one or more of LA/SMM Chapter's recognized or scheduled programs and projects in education, plant science, conservation, field trips, events, publication and outreach.
3. Nomination letters and e-mails must contain your name, address, phone number, e-mail address and a short statement about your CNPS activities and why you want to serve on the LA/SMM Chapter Board.
4. Nomination letters must be mailed to the CNPS Nominating Committee, 15811 Leadwell St., Van Nuys, CA 91406 or e-mailed to lacnps@lacnps.org by the deadline of October 13, 2005.

NOTE: If you would like to join our board but not be an officer, you are welcome to attend any chapter board meeting (see page 3 inside) and help us in our many interesting activities!

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