Bart O’Brien will offer design ideas and solutions to create vibrant gardens that complement our Mediterranean climate. Bart will focus his presentation on the native plant components of his new book, *Reimagining the California Lawn*, which he co-authored with Carol Bornstein and David Fross. The book presents alternatives to traditional lawns that can reduce water use, beautify landscapes, and attract birds and butterflies. It provides detailed information and describes hundreds of water-thrifty plants from California and other Mediterranean climates of the world and is illustrated with more than 300 color photographs. Bart O’Brien is an authority on the native flora of California. Affiliated for many years with Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, he is also an accomplished plant collector, grower, photographer, lecturer and author, and he was editor of Fremontia for five years. He co-authored two other recent books: the award winning *California Native Plants for the Garden* (2005), and the bilingual* Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens – Cuidado y mantenimiento de jardines de plantas nativas del sur de California* (2006).

**6:30 p.m. – Natives For Novices:** Natives for Wildlife - Bees - Michael Klein

**7:00 p.m. –** book browsing, and socializing.

**7:30 p.m. –** meeting and presentation.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public. They are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except Aug.) in the Casa del Prado Room 104, just west of the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park.

“Conserving and restoring the roots of California’s richness” is the theme of the 2012 conference. The Conference Program Committee will be accepting abstracts for oral and poster presentations until **August 4, 2011**. The program will focus on plant conservation and restoration and will include a keynote address, plenary sessions, concurrent sessions that include of a mix of invited and contributed oral presentations, a special student paper session, and a poster session. A special session dedicated to posters will allow in-depth discussion between authors and conference attendees. Submit all abstracts for Contributed Talks and Posters to: [http://ice.ucdavis.edu/conferences/cnps/2012](http://ice.ucdavis.edu/conferences/cnps/2012)

The webpage includes guidelines and instructions for submission. To find out more about the conference please go to: [www.cnps.org/2012](http://www.cnps.org/2012).
Let Others Know About YOUR Public Native Plant Garden

Our June 21 (the summer solstice) San Diego Chapter general meeting will be all about the San Diego region's public native plant gardens. But we don't know where they all are! So please read on:

We invite members who have designed, installed or otherwise helped to bring about native plant gardens that are open to the public in San Diego County to participate. We invite you to make a short presentation and bring a graphic display of your project.

One of our hopes is that we may have the general meeting at one of the local garden sites instead of in the Casa Del Prado; but check your June newsletters and other publicity notices to follow, to confirm the location of this special meeting about how we are bringing natives to people.

Please contact Kay Stewart by May 15 at president@cnpssd.org to be a contributor for this fun event.

Members’ Field Trips

It’s spring again and time to get out and see some amazing flora! If you are not a CNPS member or a guest attending with a member, you can join CNPS at the trailhead and enjoy the outing with us.

May 8 (Sunday). 9 a.m. to noon. Crestridge Ecological Reserve. Botanist leader to be announced later. Second chance! Last year CNPS members and their guests were welcomed to Crestridge Ecological Reserve by Cathy Chadwick, the Director of the Reserve’s Earth Discovery Institute. We were introduced to some of the habitats of the approximately 3,000-acre Reserve. We’re returning this year to explore several more habitats of this terrific site. We’ll head for the areas thought to have the widest plant diversity. The terrain is hilly, and some of the trails are single-track with irregular footing, but the pace will be slow.

Crestridge is bordered by I-8 on the north and west and the community of Crest on the south and east. Vegetation includes relict and restored grasslands, oak woodland (including Englemann oaks), riparian woodland, coastal sage scrub, and a rich variety of chaparral species, including the spectacular, scarce (CNPS-List 1B.2 species) Lakeside ceanothus (Ceanothus cyaneus). Other rare species include San Diego thornmint (Acanthomintha ilicifolia), Ramona horkelia (Horkelia truncata) and ashy spikemoss (Selaginella cinerascens). These plants are under the stewardship of the California Department of Fish and Game.

Meet at 9 a.m. at the end of Horsemill Rd. From I-8 east of El Cajon, take the Greenfield exit east, proceed 1/2 mile then turn left on La Cresta Rd. Travel approximately 3.5 miles and at the top of the grade, turn left on Mountain View Rd. Proceed 1 mile, turn left on Horsemill Rd. and continue 1/2 mile to the Crestridge entrance at the end of the road.

Have good walking shoes, sun protection, long pants and sleeves, water, and snacks or a lunch. Following the field trip you are welcome to spend all or part of the afternoon exploring other trails within the Reserve. Rain at 8 a.m. will cancel the field trip.

Board Meeting

The next Board will meet on Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30 at the San Diego Audubon office at 4010 Morena Boulevard, Suite 100. From the I-5, exit Balboa east and turn north on Morena. Board meetings are always held on the first Wednesday of the month.

~ Tom Beltran, Secretary

Tecolote Canyon Monthly Walk

May 1. 9:00 a.m.-noon. Kay Stewart leads this walk from the Tecolote Canyon Nature Ctr. From I-5, take Sea World Drive/Tecolote Drive exit and go east. The Nature Center is at the end of Tecolote Road, up the driveway and beyond all the ballfields. Rain at 8 a.m. cancels. The walk is repeated the first Sunday of each month.
CNPS members and guests will explore the far eastern part of the County’s huge Santa Ysabel Preserve near Julian. The vegetation is high elevation chaparral and oak woodland that was burned in 2003 and is recovering vigorously. In the part we will explore, small tributaries carve the west face of Volcan Mountain into steep gullies, with varied exposure and plants to match. The trail then ascends into the headwaters of the San Diego River, much of which was spared in the 2003 fires and is graced by some enormous Engelmann oaks (Quercus engelmannii) and black oaks (Q. kelloggii).

We will walk two miles or more into the preserve, have lunch, and return to the trailhead. We may have some help identifying plants from parabotanists who have collected specimens for the Natural History Museum Plant Atlas project in this area. Big meadows in the far westerly end may be a sea of blooming native perennials if our timing is good, proving that cattle grazing can be compatible with native plants if they are managed well.

Meet at the “Farmers” trailhead. Take Highway 78/79 into Julian, to Main Street. Going north, Main Street turns into Farmer Road. Take Farmer Road to Wynola Road and turn right, then a quick left back on to Farmer Road. Pass the Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve sign on your right. Santa Ysabel Preserve will be on the left side, approximately one mile from the Volcan sign. Parking is available in the staging area.

To ride share to the trailhead from central San Diego, meet at 9 a.m. at the Park’n’Ride just off Sabre Springs Road and Poway Road. From I-5 take Poway Road east ¼ mile, turn left (north) on Sabre Springs Rd., then left at the first signal into the shopping center. The driveway slopes down; turn right into the lot and meet others.

Wear long sleeves so you won’t be nicked by an unruly twig; have sun protection, and bring water and lunch. Binoculars are a bonus when observing wildlife. RSVP to fieldtrips@cnpssd.org Leave your cell phone number and group size, and please tell us if you intend to meet at the Poway Park’n’Ride or at Farmer’s trailhead.

Help Wanted: Volunteer to serve as Audio-Visual Chair for several presentation rooms. This volunteer needs to have technical skills with laptops, projectors and various presentation software applications, good organizational skills to train and supervise volunteers who will run the equipment, and who is calm in a crisis. May want to seek committee members with equal attributes.

Help Wanted: Volunteer to serve as Chair of Botanical Art Exhibition. Chair will be responsible to work with their committee to publicize, receive, and vet submittals of 2-D images in various media that are botanically correct to species identification level, and to coordinate preparation and exhibition of these pieces of art.

Other News: The CNPS Conservation Conference will include a free “Public Day” on its last day, Saturday, January 14. Public Day will attract San Diegans who aren’t drawn to the professional conference, but are still interested in native plant conservation. These visitors will also be able to visit the art, posters, and vendors of the conservation conference, and can gain understanding of what plant conservation involves. Our chapter is in charge of Public Day’s offerings. David Varner, Chair, is dreaming up many events including a native gardening workshop, a high school student plant-science project exhibition, a local conservationist workshop, and an ethno-botanical fieldtrip. Do you have an idea that you would like to suggest? Would you like to help fellow chapter members make the 2012 conference a success? David and others will be meeting monthly to develop Public Day, and other projects for the Conference. Please contact David at confluence.dv@gmail.com to get involved.

PUBLIC PLANT WALKS

Our series of spring public plant hikes concludes this month. We will be sponsoring more in the fall. Until then please enjoy these outings. Remember, bring friends, family, neighbors, anyone who may enjoy the outdoors and possibly become a CNPS member.

May 7 (Saturday). 10:00 a.m. to noon. Batiquitos Lagoon. Adrienne Heinzelman and Michael Murphy lead. Meet at Batiquitos Lagoon Nature Center, 7380 Gabbiano Lane. From I-5 take exit 45 for Poinsettia Ln toward Aviara Pkwy. Turn right at Poinsettia Ln. Take the 2nd right onto
The Second Annual Environmental Report Card came out in April, and CNPS participated for the second year. To quote the press release: “This year’s Report Card is hopeful. Mayor Sanders and many Councilmembers improved their grades from 2009. Despite some positive changes, two councilmembers continued to receive poor or mediocre grades. Their scores reflect a persistent unwillingness of some council members to recognize the environmental stewardship that voters have entrusted with them.” In particular, they were marked down on two issues of interest to CNPS members: A majority voted to sidestep a court order protecting San Diego’s vernal pools. The Mayor also lost points for supporting a bridge through Rose Canyon (again!), a proposal which fortunately died in committee.

2010 was a relatively easy year for environmental votes in the city, as many difficult environmental decisions were put off to this year. 2011 will be more contentious, with issues of stormwater, vernal pools, and development on Fiesta Island on the horizon. Stay tuned and get active.

If you feel like talking to your state and federal legislators (never a bad idea), we suggest lobbying hard to keep parks open and to not slash environmental law enforcement.

Finally, if you have any friends who pontificate about parks and environmental laws being an unaffordable luxury in this time of record budget deficits, remind them that State Parks make far more money for California than they require. Yes, parks pay for themselves several times over. Go out, pay your entrance fee, and enjoy them!

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Committee

RARE PLANT SURVEYS
Thousands of Little Gray Dune Plants

So far, our “pick up survey” strategy is working this spring. We have surveyed three locations (Batiquitos Lagoon, Silver Strand Beach Area, and Fiesta Island) and when the dust settles, we will have recorded around 750,000 plants. Yes, there are four zeroes after the 75.

Most of those plants belong to coast woolly-heads (Nemacaulis denudata var. denudata), a small little grayish rosette plant. It “loves” Silver Strand State Beach, but it occurs elsewhere. Wherever it gets a roothold, we’ve seen thousands to hundreds of thousands of them. It’s a List 1B plant, because it only occurs in a few spots, but it’s common in those few spots for the few months of its life.

We’ve seen thousands of Nuttall’s lotus (Lotus nuttallianus, List 1B), perhaps a thousand Brand’s phacelia (Phacelia stellaris, List 1B), and the odd Abronia maritima, Suaeda taxifolia and Juncus acutus. Fred Roberts found a rare species we weren’t even looking for, the List 1B Robinson’s pepper grass (Lepidium virginicum var. robinsonii).

As of mid-April (when this article was written), we have found four rare plant species on Fiesta Island, and we’re not done yet. Since Fiesta Island is a dog-walking mecca in San Diego, people may worry that dogs and rare plants don’t mix. Actually, weeds (notably the weedy chrysanthemum Glebionis coronarium) are a bigger problem than dogs. Many
dune plants like open areas near trails, and the weeds are choking them out. Fiesta Island is slated to be re-landscaped in coming years, and CNPS will be working hard to protect the rare plants there.

If you are interested in participating in the rare plant survey, email franklandis@cnpssd.org. Anyone can participate. All it requires is sharp eyes to spot tiny plants, and careful feet to avoid stepping on them.

~ Frank Landis, Rare Plant Survey Chair

VEGETATION SURVEY

Saturday, May 21, Poser Mountain. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Starbucks parking lot in Alpine (2963 Alpine Blvd.). To get there from west of Alpine, take I-8 east and exit at Tavern Rd. (Exit 30) toward Alpine, turn right onto Tavern Rd., and left at Alpine Blvd. The parking lot is 1.7 miles east of Tavern Rd. on Alpine Blvd. From here, we’ll caravan to the base of Poser Mountain, east of Alpine.

The survey will take place on Cleveland National Forest land; therefore Adventure Passes will need to be displayed in vehicles that park onsite. Please RSVP by Friday, May 21st and say if you have an Adventure Pass. Survey events are free and open to the public (although CNPS membership is encouraged!). If you are interested, we could use your help, regardless of your experience. To RSVP or request more information, email Anna Bennett at vegetation@cnpssd.org.

INVASIVE SPECIES

GARLAND DAISY (Glebionis coronarium) IS HERE TO STAY

Many may be wondering about the yellow and white daisy flower that grows just about everywhere in coastal San Diego. Well, it is an annual plant known as garland daisy or garland chrysanthemum and the current scientific name is *Glebionis coronarium*, which was very recently changed from *Chrysanthemum coronarium* based on recent taxonomic assessment. Garland daisy is not native to this part of the world and in many ways would be considered a noxious weed.

My first encounter with garland daisy was in the yard of my parents’ home east of El Cajon. We had an acre that we referred to as “the meadow” that alternated between being grassy or filled with a combination of planted and native wildflowers including *Glias* and *Platystamen californica* (cream cups). In 1969, following a wet winter, the *Glebionis* seemed to have come from nowhere and grew prolifically in our “meadow.” After flowering they dried to ugly brown stalks. (If you attended the chapter meeting presentation in April, you saw pictures of extensive stands of these dead stalks at one of the sites before it was restored – editor) While in flower, they are visually somewhat appealing, but they have a sweaty skunk-like odor that is amplified when they are past flowering. We were planning my sister’s wedding reception and my task was to remove the ugly, smelly plants. I still do not know the origin of this species in our yard. Though it was sold in nurseries, it was not yet a major weed in this region. However, during the late 1970’s and early 1980’s, possibly associated with wet rainfall seasons, this native of east Asia and the Mediterranean exploded into coastal San Diego County and even made its way down to Ensenada. Like parts of Eastern Europe, it is now the dominant plant that one sees during the spring in the coastal parts of the county. It is especially prevalent in Mission Bay, around Fiesta Island, and the Tijuana River Valley where it creates great patches of yellow. This spring it exhibited just how extensive it has become. One would have to admit that Garland daisy provides a color that is interesting if not visually pleasing. If it was a native plant, many would have spent a lot of time photographing its extent.

The genus *Chrysanthemum* consists of about 30 species native to Asia and Europe as it is currently configured. (Scientists sometimes reassess the genetic and taxonomic relationships for species so that occasionally the groupings of species within a genus as well as scientific names change.) The genus *Glebionis* was established from within the genus *Chrysanthemum* to distinguish this small group of species from ornamental species. There have also been innumerable cultivars of the ornamental species including many that create pom-pom like flowers that bear little resemblance to their ancestors. Anyone
who has watched the Rose Parade on television has heard references to “mums”, a short slang for *Chrysanthemum*, as major flowers that are used on the floats. Most of the *Chrysanthemum* species are perennials but *Glebionis coronarium* is an annual though still obviously closely related to the *Chrysanthemum* members. *Glebionis coronarium* was also sometimes placed in the genus *Leucanthemum*. A few years ago, I had the opportunity to visit Minnesota for a Conservation Biology conference and when driving through the countryside, I noticed a familiar looking plant growing along the roadsides and in open fields. It was the noxious Ox eye daisy, a white flowered perennial that grows widely in the eastern United States, in some locations forcing out native plants. It is taxonomically described as *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* or *Leucanthemum vulgare*, a close relative to the Garland daisy.

Before too much human disturbance, the coastal areas of San Diego were known for their wildflowers. I have seen photographs from the 1920s of Ocean Beach covered with Tidy tips (*Layia platyglossa*) and Beach sun cup (*Camissonia cheiranthifolia*). In fact, at the western end of I-8, there are some sandy patches where the *Camissionia* attempts to hang on in spite of the recent landscaping activities that covered much of its habitat with shredded tree bark. *Glebionis coronarium* appears to grow best in locations that are disturbed and might otherwise support mustard (*Brassica* spp.) or wild radish (*Raphanus sativa*), but it does also grow in lands that could otherwise support native plants.

If one does a little research, it is apparent that *Glebionis coronarium* has other uses that are not as well known to us locals since it is such a recent invader. Chrysanthemums and their close relatives in general play a major role in Asian culture and *Glebionis coronarium* is a major herb, vegetable, and medicinal component in Asian and Greek societies. It is apparently popular in Korean traditional soups, stews, Cantonese cuisine from Hong Kong, Taiwanese oyster omelettes and Japanese cuisine. The flower petals are also reportedly used in snake meat soup to enhance the aroma. It is also used in Crete cuisine. In its young growth form, it is sold in certain markets in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas for use in cooking. However, considering its foul odor both while growing and especially when past flowering, it must take an experienced cook to know how to prepare it correctly. That is even without mentioning that another closely related plant sometimes placed in the genus *Chrysanthemum*, *Tanacetum* or *Pyrethrum* is used to create a natural insecticide or insect repellant.

Now that Garland daisy has become such a dominant

in our area, it is not likely that efforts could ever eradicate it. In specific locations, its removal could be accomplished to support restoration of areas for particular natives, but because of its aggressive nature, unless a strong component of natives is re-established, it will return to areas that are treated. Ongoing management will be important in specific sensitive areas. Like the feral pigs, turkeys and artichoke thistle, the best way to deal with destructive and obnoxious pests is to prevent them from being established in the first place. That is a very difficult task in eras of reduced budgets and staff limitations for Federal and State agencies. However, agricultural inspectors are critical and prevention of invasive species, whether they be insects, mammals (efforts to legalize ferrets come to mind), reptiles, birds or plants, must be accomplished or eventually, worldwide, all areas with similar climates will look just the same and the tremendous and sensitive biodiversity that we cherish in San Diego and California and Baja California will be lost.

~ Tom Oberbauer

**INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL**

May 28, 9 a.m. to noon. We focus on tools for controlling invasive weeds for the purpose of habitat restoration and fire prevention. We try to touch on all aspects from evaluation and planning, laws and regulations, various control techniques, through to ongoing maintenance. We meet once a month but our daily program allows for other times to fit your schedule. Boots, long pants and long sleeves are required; eye protection is optional but recommended. Contact me for meeting place, directions, gate code & further info at invasiveplants@cnpssd.org.

~ Arne Johanson, Invasive Plant Chair

**GARDENING & RESTORATION**

**FALL PLANT SALE**

Our fall plant sale, the largest selection of California native plants for sale in San Diego along with free expert advice, will be held on **Saturday, October 15.** The plant sale committee is looking for volunteers to help organize this year’s sale. **No plant experience is necessary, but we need organized individuals with good communication and basic computer skills.** Specific tasks are needed for our fall plant sale. **The time commitment depends on your schedule.**
Sign Storage/Transportation: We need a few volunteers with some extra garage space to store and transport our signs to the sale. There are 8 boxes total, each box is 4’x 2.5’ x 2.5’.

Seed Team: Help clean and package seeds for the sale.

Publicity: Write a press release, contact news outlets about the sale, help get flyers out to groups.

Plant Growers: Perhaps you have some plants on your property that you can re-pot up or propagate from cuttings? If you’re a novice at plant propagation, we encourage you to join our propagation team.

**WORK PARTIES**

Old Town State Park Native Garden: May 14 (Saturday), 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. CELEBRATE NATIVE PLANTS IN OLD TOWN – BUT WEEDS BEWARE! Come help out and see if the April showers brought out native flowers in May. Bring sun protection and your favorite gloves and weeding tools, or dig out weeds using the gloves and tools that we provide. The garden is located at the corner of Taylor and Congress Streets, across from the train/trolley/bus depot at the very west end of Old Town State Historic Park. Come by public transit, or if you drive, free parking is in the lot next to the garden at Calhoun and Taylor Streets. After the work party we’ll go over to La Pinata on Juan Street for a no-host refreshment break and to celebrate our five months of heavy work. Questions? contact Kay Stewart at president@cnpssd.org. Old Town Native Plant Garden Work Parties are held the second Saturday of each month.

Point Loma Native Plant Garden: May 7 and 15, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Rain cancels; bring water; no facilities; tools/supplies provided. Usually the first Saturday & third Sunday of each month. Richard@sandiegoriver.org for more info.

North Park Community Restoration Garden, Saturday, May 14, 9 a.m. LET’S CONTINUE PLANTING! The CNPS Gardening Committee has begun planting and invites all who are interested in our combination native garden and plant restoration on a site bordering Juniper Canyon in North Park to join us. We welcome all volunteers and neighbors who are interested in learning about the local habitat and how to use local native plants in their gardens. Be prepared for work outside to help prep the site and to install plants. We will park and meet at the intersection of Petra Place and Petra Drive off of Pentuckett. If you have any questions or you are interested in helping with this project but can’t attend, please feel free to contact Wes Hudson at 619-846-0585, or weshudson@cox.net.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES**

MSCP 2010 Annual Report Public Workshop
June 30, 2011; 9 a.m. - noon
Balboa Park Club Ballroom

The County of San Diego, City of San Diego, City of Chula Vista, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game and others involved in the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) will give updates and presentations at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom, located at 2150 Pan American Road West, (on the north side of the parking lot of the Aerospace Museum and Starlight Theater).

The Nature Principle by Richard Louv
Friday May 6; 7:30 p.m.
Point Loma Nazarene University


**CNPS-SD CALENDAR**

5/4: Board Meeting (p. 2)
5/7: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)
5/7: Public Walk – Batiquitos Lagoon (p. 3)
5/7-8: Sage & Songbirds Festival (p. 4)
5/8: Monthly Tecolote Canyon Plant Walk (p. 2)
5/8: Field Trip to Crestridge (p. 3)
5/14: Public Walk – Tecolote Cyn (p. 4)
5/14: Old Town Work Party (p. 7)
5/14: North Park Garden Work Party (p. 7)
5/15: Point Loma Native Garden Work Party (p. 7)
5/17: Chapter Meeting (p. 1)
5/21: Mission Trails Day (p. 4)
5/21: Vegetation Survey at Poser Mtn (p. 5)
5/28: Invasive Plant Control Group (p.6)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

___Student or Limited Income $25; ___Individual $45; ___Family or Library $75
___Plant Lover $100; ___Patron $300; ___Benefactor $600; ___Mariposa Lily $1,500

Name(s): ________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
Phone: _________________________ e-mail: ____________________

Mail check payable to “CNPS” to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.