Happy New Year! It actually feels like a happy new year and perhaps this year will be a year of better environmental policies. Congratulations to CNPS member Tershia D’Elgin for her efforts to save 32nd St Canyon in Golden Hill from destruction and preserving this piece of open space for future generations. Thanks to Connie Beck for hosting a workshop at her house on November 17th to teach members how to propagate *Romneya coulteri* (Matilija Poppy). Thanks also to Recon native plant nursery for hosting our school gardening workshop at their nursery on Saturday November 4th. We hosted 15 local schools from all over San Diego County. Each school received free plants, free seeds and hands-on instruction on how to get started on their native plant school garden.

Our website is continuously provided with new and updated information. If you’ve never been to our website, make it your new year’s resolution! It includes information on volunteering and the easiest native plants for your garden, go to www.cnpssd.org. The state CNPS website also has a new look, check it out at www.cnps.org.

I hope everyone has a new year’s resolution to get involved in protecting our native plants. CNPS offers many opportunities to get involved and we need your support and involvement.

**Results of Election (CNPS-SD election):** Carrie Schneider, Dave Flietner, Catherine MacGregor, Carolyn Martus, Marty Foltyn and Cindy Burrascano were re-elected for another two year term. Hank Kraus was newly elected for a two year term, we welcome and thank Hank for volunteering his time to join our team! The primary responsibility of the board is to oversee the chapter finances, to ensure compliance with local and state by-laws, and to support the mission of CNPS. If you are interested in joining the CNPS board, please contact the board president or any board member for more information.

**Responses to comments received:** The 06 ballots invited comments from our membership and I would like to take this opportunity to respond to a few of them. One person suggested a weed identification class and we will try to include that as part of our field trips and see if we can do an evening program on weed id. In response to some of the comments, I want to make sure that everyone realizes that CNPS is a statewide organization of 32 chapters. The state office is located in Sacramento and a full-time staff supports this office including an executive director, vegetation specialist, botanist and other support positions. The local chapter consists of 11 volunteer board positions and no paid staff. Our local success is based on the commitment of volunteers.

Lastly, we received some great feedback from our members but in order to execute these great ideas we need YOU to step up and fill a leadership role, work with other leaders and make your ideas happen. You know who you are so please don’t hesitate to contact us.

Carolyn

**JANUARY MEETING PROGRAM**

**NATIVE MEDICINAL HERBS**

by James David Adams, Jr. Ph.D. and Cecilia Garcia

Tuesday January 16, – 7 PM

Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101

Cecilia Garcia, a Chumash healer and James Adams, a professor of Pharmacology at the University of Southern California will discuss healing with native plants. They are co-authors of “Healing with Medicinal Plants of the West - Cultural and Scientific Basis for Their Use”. Books will be available for sale.

Cecilia Garcia is a Chumash Healer. She was taught healing by her all 4 of her grandparents, who were all Chumash. She has been a Healer her entire life and has coauthored a book on healing, and several articles for medical journals, with Professor Adams.

James D. Adams, Jr. is an Associate Professor of Pharmacology at the University of Southern California, School of Pharmacy. Professor Adams has an interest in medicines that can be used to treat stroke victims. Professor Adams and Cecilia Garcia have been working together for 7 years. Professor Adams has over 150 publications.

See page 3 for article about special addition to this evening’s program agenda- Mystery Plants identified.
ORCUTT’S SPINEFLOWER

ORCUTT’S SPINEFLOWER

Orcutt’s spineflower (Chorizanthe orcuttiana):
A Restoration Success Story

The highly endangered Orcutt’s spineflower (Chorizanthe orcuttiana) is a very small and inconspicuous member of the buckwheat family (Polygonaceae) endemic to southern San Diego County. The plant consists of a basal rosette up to 15cm in diameter with narrow leaves sparsely covered with long hairs. The flowers are yellow-green, less than 2mm wide, and surrounded by three angled bracts tipped with recurved barbs. Germination typically begins in late fall, with flowering occurring in late spring. Orcutt’s spineflower occurs in sandy open areas in coastal sage scrub and southern maritime chaparral. Both of these habitats have been and continue to be significantly reduced by urban development and encroachment by non-native plants.

Orcutt’s spineflower was historically known from 10 locations between Encinitas and Point Loma. A population of 50-100 individuals was reported at Torrey Pines State Park in 1987, but this population has not been seen since. Orcutt’s spineflower was considered extinct until a very small population was discovered in Encinitas. As of 2005, this population had dwindled to 6 plants. However, in 1997 a population of Orcutt’s spineflower was found on the eastern slope of Naval Base Point Loma. Additional populations were found on the western slope of the base in 1999 and 2003. These populations have been monitored annually by Dr. Ellen Bauder since 1998, with total numbers ranging from a low of 464 in 1999 to over 4100 in 2005, depending on rainfall.

In 2001 the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group (SERG) at San Diego State University was funded by the Navy to begin habitat enhancement in areas known to support Orcutt’s spineflower populations. Restoration efforts have mainly comprised removal of iceplant (Carpobrotus edulis), followed by installation of jute netting, wattles, and native seedlings to control erosion. Navy funding has been renewed each year to continue habitat enhancement for Orcutt’s spineflower.

An exciting development in 2005 shows the effectiveness of these efforts to enhance and expand Orcutt’s spineflower habitat. In 2002, SERG removed approximately 11 tons of iceplant by hand from areas adjacent to one western slope population. SERG then installed jute netting and over 200 native seedlings as erosion control. In 2005, after heavy winter rains, an undocumented population of over 250 Orcutt’s spineflower individuals germinated in this treated area, which had been covered with iceplant for over 40 years. This proof of a viable Orcutt’s spineflower seed bank after such an extensive period of non-native coverage is extremely encouraging – and very satisfying to the fieldworkers who removed those 11 tons of iceplant!

The Navy has again approved funding for SERG efforts to enhance and expand habitat for Orcutt’s spineflower. Work slated for the upcoming year includes the removal of iceplant, Natal grass (Rynchelytrum repens) and acacia from the second western slope population. Being in a secured area, this population has likely been less disturbed by human activity. Therefore, we have high hopes that our success will continue, and Orcutt’s spineflower will continue its long uphill battle toward population stability.

Michelle Cloud-Hughes

VOLUNTEERS RUN THE SHOW

We always need volunteers! From pulling weeds to setting up for our monthly programs, if you have time, we need you. Please send an e-mail to info@cnpssd.org or just introduce yourself to one of the board members.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: We could always use a few extra hands in setting up the tables and chairs and putting out the food, just show up before the meetings or contact us.

PUBLICITY: Writes press releases for monthly meetings and other events. Maintains contact with local media and other environmental groups. Requires good computer skills.

PUBLIC OUTREACH: We attend many environmental fairs and garden events throughout the year and around San Diego County. We are always in need of extra volunteers to staff our booths at these events and interact with the general public.

SALES TABLE: At our monthly meetings and plant sale we sell books to raise money for our chapter. We always need help at our sales table. Duties include: Take books, brochures, and other materials out of lockers and set up sales tables at each meeting. This means arriving about 6:00 or so (for a 7:00 meeting). After the meeting, replace the books in the lockers.

PLANT SALE: (We sponsor two plant sales per year, one in October at Balboa Park and one in March at Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano)
- Ordering plants
- Growing plants for the plant sale
- Help the week before the plant sale, tagging plants or delivering plants
- Administrative assistance (needed year-round)
- Help setting up morning of the plant sale
- Help clean-up after the plant sale

CONSERVATION: We review development projects throughout San Diego County to ensure that environmental rules and regulations concerning native plant habitats are followed. We have a team of volunteers that works to review environmental documents (such as EIRs and EISs), write comment letters, attend public hearings, or meet with public officials and resource managers. For more info, contact us at: info@cnpssd.org
On Dec. 1, an appeals court ruled Sempra can now send hundreds of megawatts of electricity from its two Mexicali fossil-fuel power plants across the border into California. This proves that SDG&E’s proposal to put huge transmission lines through ABDSP are really to carry this cheap polluting electricity from Mexico to Los Angeles. Their talk of renewable plants sometime in the future is a cynical green smokescreen for the “sunsrise powerlink.”

So the dozens of communities and environmental groups, including CNPS, were right all along. However, being right won’t keep SDG&E from jamming this mega-powerline through state parks and wildernesses, unless the opponents of the powerlink can sustain a strong opposition.

About a dozen other groups and individuals filed as opponents with legal standing. I have represented CNPS with plant-science comments, and will continue to do so, but did not join as a legal opponent.

At this point, CNPS can really help other groups with financial help. Here are three you need to consider assisting:

The Sierra Club (3820 Ray Street, San Diego, CA 92104) funded organizing and legal strategy that got the opposition this far, but now more funds are needed to carry on this effort. Tax-deductible contributions are payable to Sierra Club Foundation, San Diego Chapter; non-tax deductible, to San Diego Chapter Sierra Club. Please note if your donation is for continuing organizing additional community opposition to the powerlink - a critical job to keep the pressure on politicians - or for the Sierra Club’s legal fund for opposing the sunrise powerlink.

Two other groups with legal standing as opponents are the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Institute (PO Box 2001, Borrego Springs, CA 92004) and The Center for Biological Diversity (PO Box 710, Tucson AZ 85702-0710). Be sure to include a note or write on your contribution that it is for the Sunrise Powerlink opposition campaign.

Dave Flietner, our chapter’s hike/field trip chair, is helping organize a CNPS hike in March to look for plants along a section of the proposed powerline route in Pinyon Ridge State Wilderness Area. Check future newsletters for more details.

If you want to learn more about this very important environmental fight, Kelly Fuller, who worked so effectively as an organizer for the Sierra Club in this first year of effort, has created a great web page at: http://kdfuller.blogspot.com

Kay Stewart
Mission Valley Preserve Restoration Volunteer Event, Sat. January 13, 9am-noon
People are needed to help remove non-native vegetation and survey areas for restoration. No experience is necessary but anticipate physical activity. Wear long sleeves, long pants & boots. Meet at Cottonwood Grove at the Sefton Field entrance. Contact Rob Hutsel for more information: rhutsel@sandiegoriver.org

Garden Restoration at the Point Loma Native Plant Reserve, Sat.-Sun., January 13-14, 9am-4pm. Join Boy Scout Troop 500 as they work on a restoration of Palm Canyon in the Point Loma Native Plant Reserve. Tools & refreshments will be provided. For more information contact Kym Hunter at 619-297-7380 or khunter@sandiegoriver.org.

Nature Walk with the Friends of Famosa Slough, Sat., January 20, 1-3pm. Bring your binoculars for good views of a variety of birds & salt marsh habitat. Meet at the corner of Famosa Blvd. & W. Pt. Loma Blvd. (Thomas Bros. 1268, B-5). For more info call 619-224-4591.

Lakeside River Restoration Tours & Dedication Planting, Sat., January 20, 9am-noon. Lakeside’s River Park Conservancy celebrates the completion of Phase One of their River Restoration project. With funding by the State Water Resource Control Board, the Dept. of Water Resources & Prop.13, the Conservancy has re-constructed the wetlands & bioswale & removed flood constriction. Join the LRPC for tours of the project & see the newly constructed restoration features.

Small-group tours (limited to 20) begin at 9am, 10:15am & 11:30am & last approximately 50 minutes each. Wear good walking shoes. Rain will not cancel the event.
Tour One: “Bioswale, Constructed Wetland, Emergent Wetland Pond West”
Tour Two: “Constructed Wetland Pond East, Channel Widening”
You will see some amazing changes!

A dedication planting along the new river trail will also be held. Order your tree/plant “in honor of” or “in memory of” today by calling the office at 619-443-4770. Order deadline is January 9th.

Meet in Lakeside at the Conservancy’s blue trailer at Industry Rd./Wintergardens Ave, just off Hwy 67 (Thomas Bros. 1231, J-3. Wintergardens Exit, turn left, cross over the freeway & make an immediate left through the gates). Contact Cindy at 619-443-4770 or cindyriverpark@yahoo.com for information.

Arcadis Inc., an international company that provides consulting, engineering and project management services is seeking to fill two full-time terrestrial biology positions in their San Diego office. Candidates would be responsible for leading biological resource projects for a wide variety of projects in California and the western U.S. in the areas of botany or wildlife resources. Duties will include conducting field surveys and inventories, conducting focused sensitive species surveys, construction monitoring, and report preparation. Previous experience, 3-6 years, a must. At a minimum, candidates are expected to have a B.A. or B.S. in biology, botany, ecology, or related field. Candidates are expected to be very knowledgeable of the flora or fauna of southern California. Wildlife biology candidates are expected to possess 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permits issued by USFWS for listed species such as the coastal California gnatcatcher, vernal pool branchipods, Quino checkerspot butterfly, etc. Wetland delineation experience a plus. Candidates are required to work in extreme weather conditions and terrain and walking up to 12 miles a day. Experience in the preparation of CEQA and NEPA documents required.

Experience in resource permitting with local, state and federal agencies a plus. Potential candidates should send their resumes to jmessina@arcadis-us.com

Outreach Materials Available: CNPS has brochures on using natives, invasive plants and extra chapter newsletters. If you can use some of these materials to put out at a local nature center, library or other public place, let us know. You can pick up materials at our monthly chapter meetings.

Garden Writer Needed: We would like to invite someone or a few people to start a native gardening column for our local newsletter. The content would be largely be up to the volunteer but it should include tips for gardening with native plants in San Diego County. Anyone Interested? f so, Contact info@cnpsssd.org

Weed wallet cards are now available too! These glossy laminated cards offer alternatives to invasive plants and fit nicely into your wallet or pocket. These are a new outreach tool. You can pick some up at our monthly meetings. Or you can pick some up at the Tecolote Nature Center. Contact at Tecolote is Marla Gilmore, 858-581-9959 or via e-mail at mgilmore@sandiego.gov
PLANT FAMILY CLASSES

Plant Family Classes at San Diego Natural History Museum

Begin learning about local plant families by studying the details of the genera and species found in San Diego County. Take an in-depth look at families and the characters and keys that taxonomists use. All classes will be under the supervision of Dr. Jon Rebman, Curator of Botany, and presented by local botanists. Due to the technical nature of botanical terminology, this class is not recommended for beginners in botany.

Dates for 2007:
2/6   Papaveraceae
2/13 Urticaceae/Anacardiaceae
2/20 Rubiaceae/Acanthaceae
2/27 Viscaceae/Vitaceae/Zygophyllaceae

Time:  6:30PM-8:30PM

Cost of one Class: $15 museum members, $20 non-members
Cost of four class package: $44 ($11 each class) members  $64 ($16 each) non-members

**Due to the low-cost there is no volunteer discount.**

For more information or to register, you may access the San Diego Natural History Museum education classes online at www.sdnhm.org. Or, you can call directly at 619-255-0203.

LOCAL FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Members interested in leading local field trips for the general public are invited to a planning meeting Wednesday, January 17 at 7 p.m.

The purpose of these field trips is to teach the general public about the common native plants in their figurative backyards, and to encourage them to become members of CNPS and learn more.

At the meeting we will choose the places and dates for the hikes and discuss other organizational details. Participants are expected to co-lead a total of three hikes from March to May. The meeting will be at my home, so please call me for directions.

Dave Flietner   619 501 3789

Restoration Dedication Planting

Lakeside River Restoration Tours & Dedication Planting, Sat., January 20, 9am-noon. Lakeside’s River Park conservancy celebrates the completion of Phase One of their River Restoration project. With funding by the State Water Resource Control Board, the Dept. of Water Resources & Prop.13, the Conservancy has re-constructed the wetlands & bioswale & removed flood constriction. Join the LRPC for tours of the project & see the newly constructed restoration features.

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You will see some amazing changes!

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Meet in Lakeside at the Conservancy’s blue trailer at Industry Rd./Wintergardens Ave, just off Hwy 67 (Thomas Bros. 1231, J-3. Wintergardens Exit, turn left, cross over the freeway & make an immediate left through the gates).

Contact Cindy at 619-443-4770 or cindyriverpark@yahoo.com for information.

Copy submissions are due by the first of the month prior to month of publication. (for example, copy to be put in the July issue must be received by June 1).

Send copy submittals to:  newsletter@cnpssd.org

Thank you CNPS San Diego Chapter and Recon Native Plant Nursery. Because of your generous support our Garden will be fabulous.

Sharon Hackett
Spring Native Plant Sale

Saturday March 3, 2007
9 A.M. – 4 P.M.

At the beautiful **Tree of Life Nursery**, just north of San Diego

33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA
7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Highway (Highway 74).
Enter at the green gate on the north side of the highway,
For more information, contact Tree of Life Nursery
www.treeoflifenursery.com, or 949-728-0685

**Books, posters, seeds and free advice will also be available.**
**Free Talk at 11:00: “Backyard Habitats with Native Plants”**

CNPS members will be available to help you choose plants
and give free native plant gardening advice.

Some of the proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society.
info@cnpssd.org
www.cnpssd.org

619-685-7321
On October 16th, we accomplished 3 rapid assessments of three distinct elevation categories (and hence, distinct vegetation alliances) of coastal salt marsh vegetation within the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Changes in elevation due to sedimentation resulting from activities and mismanagement upstream have already caused drastic changes in the Reserve. It is hoped that changes in vegetative cover can be tracked over time, and we attempted to sample vegetation associations from higher saline habitats to the lower, more regularly tidal influenced habitats. As usual, we split up into two teams, and tackled this delightful task.

Our team noticed a visually pleasing habitat association in the higher ground. We found a rather large patch of alkali sacaton grassland (*Sporobolus arioides*), which is a common grassland of alkali habitats across the western U.S. Other species within this relatively homogeneous patch of grassland are coast cholla (*Cylindropuntia var. fasciculatum*), alkali heath (*Frankenia salina*), California box thorn (*Lycium californicum*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum var. fasciculatum*).

There is also a small amount of pickleweed (*Salicornia, Arthrocnemum or Sarcocornia*) present inside the grassland, and in neighboring areas. We had some difficulty using the floristic keys available to discern the taxonomic identity of this pickleweed.

Also note that there have been significant changes to the Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County with regards to this formerly united grouping. Visit: http://www.sdnhm.org/research/botany/sdplants/preface.html

We assessed two other vegetation associations that are more dependent upon regular, or daily, tidal inundation. The tidal plot on higher ground has the Pacific pickleweed (*Sarcocornia pacifica* [*Salicornia virginica*]-alkali heath alliance; with an almost equal mix of these two common salt marsh species. The other, lower cover species include estuary sea-blite (*Sueda esteroa*), Western marsh rosemary (*Limonium californicum*), and the common parasite of alkali heath and pickleweed: saltmarsh dodder (*Cuscuta salina*).

The lowest elevation tidal plot that we could access without getting our boots saturated with brine included a small amount of California cord grass (*Spartina foliosa*), a habitat type that formerly held more coverage in the estuary, but has presumably lost ground due to sedimentation and/or erosion. Our vegetation plot has a small amount of cord grass, but is dominated by what may be described as a *Jaumea carnosa*- *Sarcocornia pacifica* vegetation alliance. Salty susan (*Jaumea carnosa*) dominates this particular plot, along with a smaller representation by Pacific pickleweed. These two species have a combined cover of 50 percent, while cord grass currently covers about 4 percent of the plot.

Our vegetation plot has a small amount of cord grass, but is dominated by what may be described as a *Jaumea carnosa*- *Sarcocornia pacifica* vegetation alliance. Salty susan (*Jaumea carnosa*) dominates this particular plot, along with a smaller representation by Pacific pickleweed. These two species have a combined cover of 50 percent, while cord grass currently covers about 4 percent of the plot.
Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California’s native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California’s native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes informative publications, free field trips and monthly programs and discounts on books and posters. Also included are *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants, the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and the chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SAN DIEGO CHAPTER
c/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390

CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS JAN 2007

Chapter Message Phone 619-685-7321; www.cnppsd.org; info@cnppsd.org

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NOTE: For mailing label issues contact Jim Harrison at newsletter@cnppsd.org or (858) 273-5242