JANUARY MEETING/PROGRAM

Happy New Year! My New Year’s resolution is to put the plants I bought at the fall plant sale in the ground. I hope some of you make a resolution to become more involved with CNPS. In particular, we need a Public Outreach Chair to bring our message to our community.

For those of you who missed it, our chapter sponsored a native plant propagation workshop on November 19 at Recon’s native plant nursery in Imperial Beach. We had almost 30 participants, 15 from school garden projects we are supporting and 15 members interested in native plant propagation. Connie Beck introduced us to some easy to propagate native plants like Island Mallow (Lavaterra assurgentiflora) and some not-so-easy to propagate native plants like Matilija poppy (Romneya coulteri). Ryan West, nursery manager taught us about the intricacies of native seed germination while Bruce Hanson led a tour of the many beautiful native plants in the nursery.

If you missed this workshop, stay tuned to the newsletter or our listserv because we will try to do this again in 2006. We often send out reminders on the listserv and post event announcements that don’t make it into the newsletter. To sign up, e-mail info@cnpssd.org. I hope to see you at one of our events this month.

Carolyn

Tuesday January 17th, 2005
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101
“Gardening with California Native Plants” By Carol Bornstein, Director of Living Collections and Nursery, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Lecture, New Book Release, and Book signing by the author  See page 7 for book info. The popularity of native plants in gardens and landscapes continues to grow and yet they seem to be used primarily in conventional, familiar ways. In this presentation, Carol Bornstein will explore alternative ideas for designing with native plants and how to successfully cultivate them. She will highlight a few of the many possibilities and tips that are included in her new book, California Native Plants for the Garden, which she co-authored with Bart O’Brien and Dave Fross for Cachuma Press. Copies will be available for purchase (check or cash) and signing by the author at the meeting. Carol Bornstein is the Director of Living Collections and Nursery at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (www.sbbg.org), which is devoted to the study, display, and conservation of California’s native flora. In her work with native plants, she has experimented with innovative design applications, introduced new cultivars, and advocated for regionally appropriate landscaping through her writing and teaching.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

"Introduction to Bioengineering"
By Dick Rol, Planning and Design Division Manager, Foothill Associates, San Diego

Dick Rol will present an introduction to the use of living plant material for structural purposes such as stream bank stabilization, a technique known as bioengineering. The presentation will explain the basic concepts of bioengineering, how it works, and the steps necessary to plan, design, and implement a project. It will include examples of past projects completed by Mr. Rol, and by others.
CHAPTER BOARD MINUTES

At our October meeting, your Board of Directors voted to:
- allocate $1000 to RECON Native Plants for plants for the school garden program, with the understanding that Recon will donate another 1000 plants (approximately $3000 value) to the program;
- allocate $60 to Vegetation Programs for supplies;
- nominate Deborah DeBow as delegate and Don Rideout as alternate to the San Dieguito River Valley Citizen’s Committee; Daniel Simon as Field Trip Chair; Carrie Schneider as Program Chair; Dave Flietner as Chapter Council Representative to State Board of Directors.

At our November meeting your Board of Directors voted to:
- nominate Mary Kelly as the new membership chairperson and allocate $100 for expenses;
- allocate up to $1,200 to restock the poster inventory (most posters will be sold to other vendors);
- allocate $100 to member Marie Barrett for outreach in Imperial County;
- to allocate $100 for expenses related to the November 19 plant propagation workshop.

Treasurer Marty Foltyn reported that gross total was $22,759.24, an increase of $3,750.24 from 2004.

No Board meeting was held in December.
- Linda Pardee and Carrie Schneider

CHAPTER CALENDAR

Jan 11 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
6:30-8:30 p.m., Tecolote Nature Center. Take the Sea World Drive/Tecolote exit from I-5. Proceed east until road ends at the Nature Center. Board Members, please call Carolyn Martus if you are unable to attend.

Jan 17 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM
Tuesday, Meeting at 7 p.m, Program at 7:30 p.m., Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park

Feb 8 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

Feb 21 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING/PROGRAM

CHAPTER MEETINGS

Chapter general meetings are open to the public; there is no charge. Come early and browse our books. Stay after the program for conversation and refreshments. We meet in the heart of San Diego, in Balboa Park, in Casa del Prado. Casa del Prado can be reached by car from Village Place off of Park Boulevard (served by the #7 bus), and is across from the west entrance of the Natural History Museum. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.

JANUARY EVENTS

History And Future Of Horticulture In SD
Monday, January 9, 6:00 p.m. Eric Larson, Executive Director of the San Diego County Farm Bureau, will discuss the history of San Diego County’s Horticulture Industry and future of the business of growing ornamental plants in San Diego. Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd. in Del Mar.

Endangered Species Hunt
Saturday, January 14. Buena Vista Audubon Society. 2202 South Coat Highway, Oceanside. BVAS will send teams to see how many listed species of birds we can record in San Diego County. CNPS members are needed to search for listed native plant species. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of endangered species whose protection will be gutted by H.R. 3824, introduced by Rep. Richard Pombo’s and passed by the House of Representatives. For more information visit www.audubon.org and click on “Issues and Actions” and “Latest News”. Call 760 439-2473 if you want to participate.

Discussion of Effects of Tamarisk in Tijuana Estuary
Friday, January 20, noon to 1:00 pm: Christine Whitcraft, NOAA Graduate Research Fellow, speaks on the effects of invasive tamarisk on the salt marsh soil ecosystem. Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach. Free. 619-575-3613 or www.tijuanaestuary.com.

Point Loma Planting and Gardening
Saturday, January 21, 9 a.m. to noon. Point Loma Native Plant Reserve. Join us for some planting and tending of the garden. Directions: From Ocean Beach, head south on Voltaire St. and turn east (left) onto Mendocino Street. Continue until the road turns left. The Reserve is on your right.

Sunset Bird Walk: Sat. January 28, 3 to 5 PM
Join the Friends of Rose Creek as we enjoy the sunset and the colors of the sky on the water. Have fun exploring the lower creek, bird watching, learning about the history of the creek and making new friends. This will be an easy hike about one mile round trip. Meet at Mission Bay High School in Pacific Beach. Contact Karin Dirk, 858 405-7503 for info/directions

SD County Invasive Ornamental Plant Guide Workshop
CNPS Vision Statement
Approved December 3, 2005

CNPS envisions a future where:

Californians value native plants and plant communities. They feel a personal connection to California’s varied and unique natural environments.

They understand that native plants, plant communities and healthy ecosystems are essential to the well being of all living things. This understanding influences personal ethics and actions, as well as public policy.

Californians look to CNPS as the leader for reliable native plant information and conservation needs. They actively support the Society’s numerous opportunities in conserving, learning about, researching and enjoying native plants, plant communities and ecosystems.

CNPS CHAPTER COUNCIL MEETING

The CNPS Chapter Council meeting was held December 3rd in at the University of California, Berkeley. It is a time of tremendous change for the state organization, where part-time, temporary staff currently serve in the positions of Executive Director and Development Director (fundraiser). A new Executive Director will likely have been selected by the time you read this; look for information on this in the upcoming CNPS Bulletin.

The Chapter Council elected Brad Jenkins, of the Orange County Chapter, as the new President of the State Board of Directors, as well as me as a Chapter Council Representative to the Board. Brad has a business background and brings great enthusiasm to his new role.

The Chapter Council also modified the CNPS vision statement. I hope you see in yourself the kind of Californian that we hope will someday be all of us.

-- Dave Flietner

Membership Application

Please complete this form, make check payable to “CNPS” and, mail to: California Native Plant Society 2707 K Street, Ste 1 Sacramento, CA 95816

___ Student/Retired/Limited Income $20  ___ Plant Lover $100
___ Individual or Library $35  ___ Patron $250
___ Family or Group $45  ___ Benefactor $500
___ Supporting $75  ___ Mariposa Lily $1,000

Name(s):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone #:

e-mail address
Chapter member Margaret Fillius has produced a beautiful and practical guide to the common native plants of coastal San Diego. Spiral-bound and on thick, glossy paper, it’s meant to be used in the field. It features 232 pages of crisp, clear photographs of the plant’s overall appearance and close-ups of flowers, leaves, and other diagnostic features. Each page is packed with information, including a chart with useful information (growth habit, height, flowering season, etc.) and typically eight or more photos per page. The smaller photos show details and variations useful in identification, although sometimes it seems that Margaret just wants us to revel in the sheer beauty of the flowers.

There is a brief introduction with a glossary of botanical terms, making this accessible to the beginner. The plants are organized alphabetically by family name, but those who don’t know the families can use a clever “Index by Flower Color” in the back. One twist is that the Jepson Manual’s Liliaceae is now broken up into Alliaceae (Allium), Hyacinthaceae (Chlorogallum), Melanthiaceae (Zigadenus), and Themidaceae (Bloomeria, Brodiaea, Dichelostemma, Muilla), with the Liliaceae left with just Calochortus and Fritillaria.

The book doesn’t include ferns or grasses and only a couple members of Cyperaceae are represented. Non-natives aren’t included either, and this may stymie the beginner, but luckily Leitner’s book helps fill in these gaps. This book doesn’t do it all, but by limiting its scope, both taxonomically and geographically, it accomplishes its purpose of providing an excellent field guide for amateur botanists. This is a wonderful new resource for field trips, canyon groups, and students.

Our chapter supported the publication of this book through a memorial fund set aside in honor of long-time member Jennifer Stone. Jennifer loved Torrey Pines and this book is a wonderful tribute that will continue to spread her love of native plants.

Dave Flietner

Warm welcome to our new members. We hope you’ll soon come to a Chapter meeting. Come early and browse our books. Stay after for conversation and refreshments.

John McManus, Eddie Meyerholz, Judy Mielke
Scott Snover, and Margaret Stahlhaver

The Conservation Biology Institute’s new report, Conservation Significance of Rancho Guejito, describes a little known natural area that is arguably the crown jewel of unprotected San Diego wildlands.

The report provides an overview of the significant biotic, geologic, cultural, and scenic values of Rancho Guejito, the only remaining intact Mexican land grant in Southern California. With the recent death of the landowner, the site now faces potential fragmentation for low-density residential development.

Ranch Guejito supports over 20 plant communities, including oak savannas, grasslands, alkali meadows, and vernal pools, and Engelmann oak woodlands. These communities provide a linkage between lower elevation coastal habitats and montane habitat in the Cleveland National Forest. Its large size permits large-scale ecological processes, such as fire, to occur naturally. It provides resources that vegetation and wildlife communities depend on, such as natural hydrological and fire regimes, which require large landscapes to function. Its watersheds also support natural hydrologic processes and high water quality.

To read the entire report, click: http://www.consbio.org/cbi/pubs/indexGuejito.htm

The only legal recourse is to challenge this ruling in a higher court, either the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court. Briggs stated his intention to do so after the ruling, but this will be contingent on funding. Our chapter has committed to supporting the lawsuit with the profits from the sales of Border Fields tee shirts and from donations. Although the $3,800 we have amassed is a tiny portion of the total needed, it would add to the efforts of the other conservation groups to overturn this travesty.

Rep. Duncan Hunter, the original proponent of the Triple Fence has now introduced HR 4313 to build a 2,000 mile border fence, at about $1 million per mile. Should the current law stand, the entire border area will be exempt from any environmental review.

Dave Flietner
Volunteer restoration groups on a budget appreciate being able to grow their own container plants. There is also a good biological principle behind propagating with plants from your own site. Resident plant populations have adapted to their sites over years of natural selection and may be more suited to it than plants from miles away. And it's easy and can be successfully done in the corner of a residential backyard.

Cuttings are an easy way to propagate many plant species, especially those with difficult-to-germinate seeds. Species that are fairly easy to propagate from cuttings: blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), California fuchsia (*Zauschneria californica*), Willow (*Salix spp.*), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), arrow weed (*Pluchea serricea*), cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii, P. basalmifera ssp. trichocarpa*). Species that may work for you – give them a try: bush monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*). Try others and let us know what works!

To grow plants from cuttings:
- Prepare one-gallon pots by filling with soil and soaking thoroughly. If the soil is hard to wet, place the pot in a bowl of water overnight, then drain.
- Get permission from the property owner before taking samples. Removing a few stems will not hurt a plant.
- Cut stems about one to two feet long.
- Remove all leaves to avoid desiccating the cutting.
- Push the cut end into the soil all the way to the bottom of the container, trim the top, leaving two leaf nodes above the soil.
- Place the pots in filtered sunlight (under a tree or a shade cloth).
- Sprinkle the pots every three days or so.
- By the end of a month, the cutting will be sprouting new leaves or will be dead. If dead, toss it and reuse the pot for a new cutting.
- Once the plant has a number of new leaves and is growing well, plant it in your restoration site.

-- Carrie Schneider

The 58th Annual Conference of the California Weed Science Society will be held at the Ventura Beach Marriott in Ventura, California on January 16 – 18, 2006.

The theme of the conference is “Improvise, Adapt and Overcome in California Weed Management.” The schedule of topics is extensive.

Among topics that may be of specific interest to noxious and invasive weed managers are:
- History of and Invasion by Sahara Mustard – Matt Brooks;
- Fennel Research – Carl Bell;
- Integrated Mgmt of Perennial Pepperweed – Debra Boelk;
- Intraspecific Variation of *Diorhabda elongate*:
- Implications for Classical Biological Control of Invasive Tamarix – Hilary Thomas;
- Evaluation of Imazapyr and Aminopyralid for Invasive Plant Management – Joe DiTomaso;
- Working Together for Noxious Weed Control in Santa Barbara County – Linda Hamel;
- Fire & Invasive Plants – Carl Bell;
- California State Weed Management Plan – Steve Schoenig;
- Invasive Weeds from the Nursery – Joe DiTomaso;
- Spartina Program – Peggy Olofson.

For a complete agenda, lodging information and the registration form, visit www.cwss.org. The registration fee postmarked by 12/14/05 is $129; after it is $159.

The December article stated:
“... The proposal to rebuild the Los Caballos equestrian camp on a population of the State endangered Parish’s slender meadowfoam ((*Limnanthes gracilis ssp.parishii*) appears to have been retracted in favor of rebuilding on a new, less environmentally sensitive site.”

The following is more accurate:
“The proposal to reopen the Los Caballos equestrian camp, where a population of the State endangered Parish’s slender meadowfoam (*Limnanthes gracilis ssp. parishii*) is located, is being reconsidered. Many equestrians now support an alternative proposal to relocate equestrian camping to a new, less environmentally sensitive site and to phase out any use of Los Caballos.”

Ed.
We need a digital projector capable of good-quality slide shows for our monthly meeting in Balboa Park. Please contact me if you have any leads.
Carrie Schneider, (858) 353-4413 or info cnpssd.org

Our chapter was fortunate to receive $5,000 from the estate of long-time member Rita Delapa. Rita passed away in June. Rita studied horticulture at Cuyamaca College and worked in nature preserves throughout the County. She volunteered at the Grant School canyon restoration in Mission Hills, led by kindergarten teacher David Martocchio (see article, page 3). Grant School is one of many projects that have benefited from CNPS-SD funding and volunteer efforts.

Rita hoped we might sponsor other urban landscape projects that publicly demonstrate the use and beauty of California native plants. We welcome your ideas how we may best use Rita's bequest. Please send your ideas to the chapter post box or email address (see back page).

We encourage others to remember our chapter and the state CNPS in their estate plans and annual charitable giving. Annual bequests and gifts can endow ongoing horticulture programs, increase our participation with local school projects, or help conserve native plant habitats.

If you would like more information about how to include CNPS San Diego or CNPS in your will, please contact me.
Peter St. Clair, (619) 260-1394 or peter.stclair@sbcglobal.net

Chapter member Tershia d'Elgin has been recognized as one of our nation’s top “Garden Crusaders.” Burlington, Vermont based Gardener’s Supply Company recognized Tershia’s years of work on behalf of the 32nd Street Canyon with an “Honorable Mention” and a $50 gift certificate.

Tershia was nominated by Carrie Schneider to help to raise the profile of the effort to native the destruction of the canyon’s habitat by the San Diego Unified School District. Tershia and the Friends of 32nd Street Canyon removed giant reed (Arundo donax) and tons of trash, written restoration grants, and introduced hundreds of elementary school children to the wonders of our native plant communities.

Carrie Schneider
**SEN. KEHOE’S BILL 502**

State Senator Christine Kehoe’s Senate Bill 502 has passed, has been signed by the Governor, and will become law on January 1st.

The bill limits power of local officials to order wholesale clearance of low growing natives and changes the official definition of “weeds” to eliminate the wording that singles out native plants.

Commencing January 1, home owners in areas subject to wildfire,
1. Must create a firebreak by clearing all flammable vegetation or combustible growth within 30 feet of a structure, or to the property line, whichever is less.
2. May be required to create additional fire protection or firebreaks within 100 feet of a structure, or more, if ordered by local agencies on larger parcels.
3. May keep, within either zone, “single specimens of trees or other vegetation that is well-pruned and maintained so as to effectively manage fuels and not form a means of rapidly transmitting fire from other nearby vegetation, buildings or structures.”
4. May grow, beyond 30 feet from a structure, “grass and other vegetation maintained to stabilize soils and prevent erosion....” if those plants are less than 18 inches high.
5. May not be required to monitor their neighbors' vegetation.
6. May be required to create larger fire breaks or fire protection zones by their insurance carriers, however it does not appear the insurance carrier can require owners to clear all vegetation.
7. Be allowed, if a structure is built from nonflammable exterior materials, to modify or eliminate these fire break and fire protection zones, after exterior and interior inspections and the approval of local officials.

The state’s definition of weeds no longer singles out native plants. Weeds now include all plants:
1. whose seeds are of a “downy or winged nature”;
2. that create a fire hazard to adjacent improved property and certain urbanized but unincorporated areas;
3. are dry and brittle;
4. are litter or rubbish;
5. or are poison oak or poison ivy that is deemed a menace to public health.

We encourage our members to write or e-mail Christine Kehoe and thank her for her efforts:
Senator Christine Kehoe
State Capitol, Room 3086
Sacramento, CA 95814
Senator.Kehoe@sen.ca.gov

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**NATIVE PLANT GARDEN BOOK**

Carol Bomstein, David Fross, and Bart O’Brien have teamed up to share their deep knowledge and appreciation of gardening with California native plants. Each of them has more than 25 years of experience with California natives, ranging from teaching classes and introducing new plant selections to designing and maintaining contemporary gardens. In *California Native Plants for the Garden*, they write with passion and expertise about the best California natives for horticulture. The authors also present the history of landscaping with California plants, describe the state’s major plant communities, and detail the important steps for successful planning, installation, and care of a native plant garden. They round out the text with lists of recommended species for a variety of situations and provide information on where to purchase natives and see them in public gardens.

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**COPY SUBMITTAL DEADLINE CHANGE**

Beginning with the March issue, The deadline for copy submittals has been changed to read as follows: Copy submissions are due by the first of the month prior to month of publication; for example, copy for inclusion in the July issue must be submitted by June 1.

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**COPY SUBMITTAL e-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE**

The e-mail address for newsletter copy submittals has been changed to a functional address vice personal addresses. From now on, send newsletter material to:

**newsletter@cnpssd.org**

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

Send copy submittals to: newsletter@cnpssd.org

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CNPS Newsletter is published monthly. Chapter dues include a subscription to the chapter newsletter. Second class postage paid at San Diego, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to: CNPS, 2707 K Street Ste. 1; Sacramento, CA 95816
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 JANUARY 2006

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

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NOTE:  PLANT SALE, and OUTREACH are OPEN.
NOTE:  For mailing label issues contact Jim Harrison at (858) 273-5242 (ref 4/30/05 roster)