Manzanitas of San Diego
by James Lightner

Manzanitas are among the most common native shrubs of San Diego County, popular for their twisting branches, beautiful red bark, urn-shaped flowers and apple-like berries.

James Lightner will show slides of local manzanitas in their natural settings and point out some of the features of the different species.

Lightner, a native of San Diego, has authored the book, San Diego County Native Plants which includes some of the species included in the slide show, and he will sign copies of the book.

His educational background includes a degree in Human Biology from Stanford, and he has worked in various advanced-technology industries. He manages ranchland near Descanso.

Water Conservation and Native Plants
by Vickie Driver, Principal Water Resources Specialist, San Diego County Water Authority

Vickie Driver will be speaking about the water supply situation for the coming year, and the role of native plants in water conservation and urban run-off reduction. She will also introduce some new landscape water conservation programs that are launching now.

Ms. Driver, a long-time CNPS member, promotes the use of natives in all types of landscapes, not just specialized native plant gardens.
Jeanine DeHart
February 9, 1937 - January 3, 2005

Jeanine would invite chapter members to browse through her plantings, while giving advice on propagation methods. One year, Jeanine invited members over to her growing grounds to propagate Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) for the chapter's annual plant sale. She provided the pots, soil and space to hold the plants for the year it takes for the plants to grow to a suitable size for the sale. Jeanine also gave well-attended propagation lectures at our monthly meetings.

Jeanine was a familiar face at the annual fall plant sales. Joan always assigned her to the A-C section, which includes a large group of cultivars in the *Arctostaphylos* and *Ceanothus* genera. But if you needed advice in another section, Jeanine was always willing to recommend a native suitable for your particular location.

When Jeanine knew that she could not beat the cancer, she approached the chapter about buying the rights to her "Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants." It's packed with proven propagation techniques she perfected over the years and is available at our monthly chapter meetings.

Jeanine’s daughter has asked those who wish to make a donation in Jeanine’s memory to contribute to Hospice of the Bluegrass, 208 Steele Street, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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**VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB GRANTS**

We are happy to learn that The Village Garden Club of La Jolla has started its own Schoolyard Gardening Grant Program and has decided to make this a permanent project. Of eleven applications received, three schools were selected to receive a $250 grant. Applicants that did not receive funding received a notebook with gardening ideas to help in garden planning and design.

La Jolla Elementary School will include La Jolla Elementary School. Her project includes a California Native Plant Garden among a number of themed gardens “owned” by the second through fourth graders. The grant money will be spent on seeds and plantings, raised wooden planter boxes, garden tools and soil amendments.

Grant Elementary School is in the third year of developing its Native Plant Preserve and Trail in the canyon between the school and Washington Street. The goal is to provide a living history of the local environment the Kumeyaay might have known before contact in 1769. The grant money will be spent to purchase native plants.

Rolando Elementary will develop a native chaparral garden with a mature oak tree as a backdrop, using National Wildlife Federation schoolyard habitat guidelines. They will buy hardscape materials to create several raised beds and pathways to make the garden handicapped accessible.

For more information, contact Ruth Barnett, Judy Holmes or Ann Zahner with the Village Garden Club of La Jolla.

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**SPRING PLANT SALE**

The San Diego chapter of the California Native Plant Society will hold its annual spring plant sale at Tree of Life Nursery on March 5, 2005.

The nursery is located at 33201 Ortega Highway, 7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Highway, (Highway 74).

Enter at the green gate on the north side of the highway. The sale hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Get there early for the best selection! CNPS members will be available to help you choose plants and give free native plant gardening advice.

For more information, contact Tree of Life Nursery at www.treeoflifenursery.com, or 949-728-0685, or CNPS-SD at www.cnpssd.org, or 619-685-7321, or info@cnpssd.org.

Connie Beck, Horticulture Chairman

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**PLANT SALE HELP NEEDED**

Can you help at the spring plant sale? We need people who are willing to share their expertise answering questions from buyers. We need two shifts, 9 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 4. Please contact me if you can help!

holisticgardener@hotmail.com
**ANZA BORREGO BLOOMING**

I have heard the Anza Borrego desert is blooming. Now is probably a good time to go, as the weedy grasses and Brassica tournefortii are up too and may swamp out the wildflowers like they have in prior wet years.

Please attend the public hearing on the Anza Borrego Management Plan. It will be held at the San Diego Marriott in Mission Valley (8757 Rio San Diego Drive) Feb 11 (Friday) with the meeting starting at 9:30AM. I am not sure what time the Management Plan will be heard.

The Management Plan and draft EIR can be reviewed at: State Parks Service Center (8885 Rio San Diego Drive, Suite 270, San Diego), the San Diego Public Library in Mission Valley (2123 Fenton Parkway), or the State Parks Colorado Desert District Headquarters (200 Palm Canyon Drive in Borrego Springs).

There is likely to be pressure to open up more areas to utilities and off-road vehicle use so please come and support the Plan.

Cindy Burrascano

**NEW OHV RESTRICTIONS**

By an order issued by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, dated December 30, 2004 (Case No. C03-2509 SI) and implemented through BLM regulations at 43 CFR 8364.1, the BLM California Desert District imposed a restriction on all off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in wash zones associated with designated Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMAs) within the Northern and Eastern Colorado (NECO) desert bio-region.

The closure affects about 218,711 acres in the Chemehuevi DWMA and 352,633 acres in the Chuckwall DWMA. A map of the areas affected is available at www.ca.blm.gov. (Reference: BLM Public Notice, January 4, 2005).

Though desert tortoise recovery is the driving force of land use planning in the DWMAs, any recovery measures protecting desert tortoise habitat will also protect native plants and ecosystems in the Mojave and Colorado deserts.

Bobbie Stephenson

**BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB**

Buena Vista Native Plant Club
Sunday, Feb 20, 2pm.

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club is discussing Safe Sex in the Garden” by Thomas Ogren. Plants are growing and love is in the air.

Consider the controversial VOC chapter while dining on left-over Valentine’s Day candy.


**WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN SEMINARS**

12122 Cuyamaca College Dr., El Cajon

**FIRESCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS,**
Wed, 2/16, 7pm-8:30pm FREE

Firewise Seminar with Greg Rubin, native plant expert and owner of California’s Own Native Landscape Design.

Greg will guide you through the essentials of fire-wise landscaping with native plants. Topics include native plant identification and selection, proper plant placement and grouping, and native plant care.

**LIVING WITH NATURE AND FIRE,**
Sat, 4/6, 7pm-8pm FREE

Landscape Architect Kay Stewart outlines how to live more safely in wildfire-prone San Diego.

In this presentation created by the San Diego Fire Recovery Network and the San Diego Natural History Museum, Kay will discuss how to reduce fire risk in the way we plan communities, build structures, and develop land and landscapes.

**TELL US YOUR FAVORITE GARDENS**

Send me your favorite public or private native garden and its location and I will compile a list present to the County TV network as a resource for feature articles.

I would define "garden" as a place that is maintained regularly, not a natural area that (more-or-less) takes care of itself. Bonus points for identification markers by the plants. For private gardens, let me know whether the owners welcome visitors.

Carrie Schneider
NOTE: Contact Carrie Schneider to have your event listed in this column.

Ruffin Canyon (Serra Mesa). Every Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. to Noon and the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to Noon. Contact Glenn Torbett at 858-565-7347.

Shepherd Canyon (Tierra Santa). First Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. to Noon. Contact Roberta Froome at 858-627-0682 or –0681.

Grant Elementary School (Mission Hills). First Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. to work on restoring a canyon on the school property to native vegetation. Contact davemartocchio@yahoo.com or call 858-272-6055.

Bayside Native Plant Area (Hospitality Point in Mission Bay Park). First Sunday of every month, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Contact Gary Suttle 858- 679-5340 or nature@utm.net

Switzer Canyon (North Park). Third Sunday of every month, 9 a.m. to Noon. Contact Carrie Schneider at 619-282-3645.

Fallbrook Fallbrook Land Conservancy’s Invasive Plant Tea.m. meets on the last Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. until about 11:00 a.m. on one of their seven Preserves to work on invasive plants or revegetation. For more information call the Fallbrook Land Conservancy at (760) 728-0889 or Mike Peters at (760) 728-0532. For more info see www.sdldcc.org/flc

Lake Murray Shoreline. Contact Eric Bowlby; 619-284-9399

Cottonwood Creek (Encinitas). Contact Brad Roth, Project Manager, 760-436-2632.

Pt. Loma Native Plant Garden A few volunteers mostly work on Monday mornings, but can be available other days. Contact Aaron Herzl, at aherzl@sandiegoriver.org.

GOT A CHAPTER MOTTO?

Do you have an idea for a Chapter motto? If so, send it to us and we’ll add it to the short list of candidates. Here is a sample of some we have collected so far:
- Viva la flora
- California native plants, our sense of place
- Go native, in the garden
- Bring a California plant back home

Send your idea to: carolynmartus@adelphia.net

RECURRING EVENTS

Feb 26-27/Sat-Sun
San Sebastian Marsh Work Party and Car Camp
Ldr: Larry Klaasen, 619-582-7407
Asst: Pat Klaasen
Join us in removing the invasive tamarisk (saltcedar) from the banks of San Sebastian Marsh, near Harper’s Well.
We will be tackling the resprout and new growth, to save the pools for the desert pupfish, and other native plants and animals.
BLM Biologist Daniel will lend his expertise on the local birds and reptiles. Car Camp Saturday night along Kane Spring Road.
For info and reservations, call or email aasen_L@juno.com

RELATED EVENTS

Saturday, February 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Annual Trail Volunteer Training Workshop
Hosted by the Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District (Orange and Riverside Counties).
People interested in participating in district trail patrols and trail maintenance are encouraged to attend. See http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland/news/2005/01/volunteer.shtml

The Cleveland National Forest and the San Diego River Park Foundation invite you to join us in caring for your public lands.
Upcoming service projects, including trail projects in the San Diego River Gorge and on Palomar Mountain, native plant installations at Observatory Campground, Laguna Meadows trail projects, are listed at http://www.sandiegoriver.org/sdfrn/

MORE EVENTS

MSCP NEWSLETTER

The latest MSCP Newsletter is now available online at http://dplu-mscp.sdc county.ca.gov/pub_out/2winter2005.pdf

This issue contains information on:
- Land preserved in the Ramona Grasslands
- Watershed planning
- Re-opening of open space preserves post-fire
- New MSCP staff members
and much more.

from: chrisine.brochard@sdcounty.ca.gov
**INVASIVE PLANTS**

All over California, native plants are under attack by invasive pest plants. Three groups are working toward solutions to this problem: the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) locally, San Diego Chapter of CNPS, and the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) at the state level.

ASLA and CNPS San Diego continue to work cooperatively and diligently to develop the “Invasive Plant Guide” for San Diego Landscape Architects. This handout will inform landscape architects and others about the potential for horticultural plants to become pests in natural areas and provide them with attractive non-invasive alternatives. Thanks to the efforts of Amy Baquial, Marney Griffin, Melanie Johnson, David Reed, Scott Molentin, Scott Sandel, Robin Shifflet, Chris Langdon, D.J. Taylor, Larry Sheehan, Steve Yavanian, and Laurel Hunter. Special thanks to Bob Perry, Carl Bell, Mike Kelly, and Jon Rebman for the expert input and advice. If you would like to get involved, please send an e-mail to info@cnpssd.org. Keep reading the newsletter for more information about this effort.

Cal-IPC continues to update their “Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern,” list, which was created in October 1999. To view the list, go to http://www.cal-ipc.org and click on “View our CA Weed Inventory.” Weeds have been categorized by Lists (similar to CNPS’ Lists of rare plants): A: Most Invasive Wildland Pest Plant (divided into A-1 and A-2 based on how widespread they are); B: Wildland Pest Plants of Lesser Invasiveness; Red Alert: Pest plants with potential to spread explosively: Need more Information; Annual Grasses; and Considered but Not Listed. The lists provide information on the habitats and regional distribution of the weeds.

Anyone who wants to get more involved with this important project can click on “Help with the Revision process” to choose a weed and complete Plant Assessment Form (PAF) for it. This has 13 questions that assess the ecological impact, invasiveness, and distribution of each species. Filling out a PAF does not require extensive knowledge of the plant in question. Cal-IPC can provide you with literature for most species. Reviewers use literature, observations, field knowledge, and other evidence to answer the questions. This would be a great semester project for college students!

-- Carolyn Martus

**CRITICAL HABITAT**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) continues to minimize the area designated as critical habitat (CH) for endangered and threatened plants. CNPS has repeatedly taken FWS to court to force them to designate CH as required by the Endangered Species Act and has won. CNPS has won lawsuits challenging FWS failure to designate critical habitat for eight plants in southern California and for 15 animals and plants of vernal pools. Despite the repeated protestation of FWS that critical habitat designation does no more than the actual listing, the courts have upheld CH as a tool to conserve and recover species, not just protect them from extinction.

The FWS has obeyed the letter of the court order, but violated the spirit by eliminating from critical habitat precisely those areas where the designation would be most effective!

**Why is Critical Habitat Important?**

Within critical habitat, listed plants gain greater protection with any project involving federal funding, permits, or authorization (this “federal nexus” also applies to all lands under federal jurisdiction such as military bases, National Forests, BLM lands, etc.) Critical habitat has the benefit that the habitat gains some protection whether the plant is physically present or not at the time the project is proposed, if all the “primary constituent elements” are present. The primary constituent elements represent habitat parameters that have been identified as necessary for the listed plant to survive. This is particularly important for plants, because surveys may not detect the plant (in dry years, or when other plants are too thick) even if it is present as seeds or bulbs.

FWS has gutted the effectiveness of CH designation by excluding areas in approved or pending Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), such as Western Riverside’s MSHCP and North San Diego County’s MHCP (don’t worry about these acronyms). This approach resulted in the San Jacinto Valley crownscale recently receiving a critical habitat designation of ZERO ACRES, because it occurs entirely within the Western Riverside County MSHCP area. CNPS and other conservation organizations have deep reservations about this plan, largely because it fails designate reserves on a map but relies on an untested process of land acquisition that may require decades to implement. CNPS Southern California Regional Botanist Ileene Anderson has submitted extensive comments on FWS’ critical habitat policy (see http://www.cnps.org/archives/letters/chreg.pdf).

-- Carolyn Martus
NEW FIELD TRIP CHAIR!

We are fortunate to have Darren Smith step into the open position of Field Trip Co-ordinator. 2005 is looking like a banner year.

Darren works for California State Parks and knows lots of great spots to visit. But as we have stated repeatedly when we announced the position, the Field Trip Coordinator isn’t expected to plan all the field trips, but to coordinate with other CNPS members to make it work.

So please contact Darren (619 231-3789 or; darren@parks.ca.gov) if you would be willing to share your knowledge of the flora of a special place this year. Darren vows to return your call within 48 hours if you want to lead a field trip.

FIELD TRIPS ON TAP

Mission Trails, Saturday, February 19, 9:00 a.m. We will see native species recovery two years after the fire. Meet at the Mission Dam Parking lot (Thomas Brothers 1230 F6).

Border Fields State Park. Saturday, Feb 26, 10 a.m. As the bloom swings into high gear, we will continue to document the unique plant communities on each mesa threatened by the Triple Border Fence. We may map rare plants, photograph them, or set up vegetation transects. Bring your camera. Directions: I-5 south, exit Dairy Mart Road and turn right. Continue west Dairy Mart becomes Monument Road and drive the winding roads about ten minutes until you reach the Park Entrance. (Thomas Bros. 1349 G5).

HELP AT THE SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL

Saturday & Sunday, February 12 & 13 CNPS-San Diego plans to have a booth at the Bird Festival at the Marina Village Conference Center in beautiful Mission Bay, and we are looking for a couple of volunteers to staff it. Hours run from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. each day - sign up for all or any portion.

At this site will be a number of lectures on the local birding scene. For more information about the event, see http://www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org/birdfest/index.htm.

Carrie Schneider, info@cnpssd.org, or 619-282-3645

Vernal Pool Species

Obeying an October 2004 court order, FWS released its proposed critical habitat ruling for Vernal Pool Species on December 28, 2004 with the only a 30-day comment period. FWS cut one million acres from its September 2002 designation of 1.7 million acres reduced its original (2002) designation of 1.7 million acres by cutting lands that in National Wildlife Refuges, military bases, tribal lands, State wildlife areas or reserves, and lands covered by Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs). But federal and state wildlife refuges are not being managed for the conservation of the listed species; some are underfunded and have little or no management, and others are managed for ducks or other wildlife.

Instead, FWS “has moved forward with a comprehensive, voluntary recovery strategy” that depends on “funding assistance” as an incentive. That is, instead of using its existing power to prohibit destruction of critical habitat where the constituent elements are present, taxpayers will now pay large landowners to conserve their land. (Does this sound familiar?)

Because of FWS’ new policy of allowing only 30 days for public comments, as you read this it is too late for you to voice your opinion. However, you have until February 7, 2005 to comment on their proposed designation of critical habitat for *Brodiaea filifolia* (thread-leaved brodiaea).

**Thread-leaved Brodiaea**

Of a total of 9,403 acres (3,695 acres in San Diego County) of habitat with essential habitat features for brodiaea’s survival, about half, 4,713 acres (1,446 acres in San Diego County) would be excluded from critical habitat designation. Twelve populations, on 3,267 acres would in Riverside County are excluded, because of FWS’ reliance on the problematic MSHCP.

Closer to home, 13 eligible occurrences in San Diego County are excluded because they are “mission-essential lands” on Camp Pendleton, or covered under the Carlsbad HMP or the Villages of La Costa HCP. Fortunately, the Fox-Miller property in Carlsbad remains proposed as CH, because it was not in a reserve in the HMP. The Upland property in San Marcos is included as critical habitat, but the population is listed as about 1,000, rather than the 300,000 that are actually there, according to Fred Roberts.

Before February 7th, please fax your comments to (760)731-9618 or write to:
Field Supervisor
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
6010 Hidden Valley Road
Carlsbad, California 92009.

From: Federal Register 69 FR 71284-71319 Dec 8, 2004
Dave Flietner
FYI, calweedjobs@topica.com is a list serv devoted to announcements for resource management type jobs. The listserv is sponsored by the California Invasive Plant Council, Cal-IPC as discussed in their note following.

Carrie Schneider

This listserv is a way for us at Cal-IPC to post the many resource management job listings that people let us know about. It is meant as a service to those who are job hunting, or are simply interested in following job listings. If you are not interested in job listings, you can unsubscribe easily by sending a blank email to calweedjobs-unsubscribe@topica.com.

Understand also that we are just passing along announcements. For additional information, you will need to follow up with the organization listing the position. We do not necessarily endorse any organization, and we are not recruiting for anybody beyond passing along their listing.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns, and best of luck with job hunting. We need all the help we can get in the restoration field!

Doug Johnson, Executive Director CAL-IPC
ph: (510) 843-3902, fax: (510) 217-3500
email: dwjohnson@cal-ipc.org
web: www.Cal-IPC.org

URS Corporation currently has a full-time opening for a botanist/vegetation ecologist in our San Diego office. Work would involve participation in rare plant surveys, wetland delineation, vegetation mapping, habitat restoration planning, CEQA/NEPA, ESA assessments. See our website (urscorp.com) for a company overview. The closing date for the position is March 31, 2005. Respond via e-mail to SDO@urscorp.com or mail to: URS Corp., 1615 Murray Canyon Road, Suite 1000, San Diego CA, 92108

December issue of SDNHM's magazine, Natural History, has article with specific information about invasives in the SD region. Go to http://www.sdnhm.org/research/botany/sdweeds.html

Also see “In a Chokehold” printed in LA Times issue of Dec 28, 2004. go to www.latimes.com and check the archives.
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–FEBRUARY 2005
Chapter Message Phone 619-685-7321; www.cnpssd.org; info@cnpssd.org

**BOARD OFFICERS**
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TREASURER: Marty Foltyn.............................(858) 259-0283h
.............................................(858) 720-9780w

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Makup: Jim Harrison, .............................(858) 273-5242

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WEBSITE: Jim Wirt......................

INVASIVE PLANTS: Carolyn Martus..................(see Pres.)

PUBLICITY, HOSPITALITY, VEGETATION and BOARD
positions are OPEN.

NOTE: For mailing label and membership issues contact John Hacklander.