JUNE 2005

www.cnpssd.org (619) 685-7321 info@cnpssd.org

JUNE CHAPTER PROGRAM

June 21 (3rd Tue), 7 p.m
Room 104, Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park
San Diego County Plant Atlas Project
By Dr. Jon Rebman

The San Diego County Plant Atlas project has been created by the San Diego Natural History Museum to scientifically document the remarkable floristic diversity of San Diego by initiating the collection of voucher plant specimens throughout the county. Almost 300 parabotanists have participated in a novel program that trains them how to collect specimens and submit field data online.

The county is a rich source of ongoing novelties and floristic surprises, and with this concentrated effort over 70 new county records have already been documented, and over 10,000 specimen records have been entered into the new database. The Plant Atlas is designed to compliment the County-wide Bird Atlas and Mammal Atlas projects and will provide more accurate and detailed geographic information on the flora of San Diego County for science, education, the interested public, and land managers.

THE PREZ SEZ

The Prez Sez:....be sure to visit our website on a regular basis. Our volunteer webmaster, Jim Wirt of Bit Springs Communications, www.bitsprings.com, keeps it updated and fresh, with all the latest native plant happenings going on around our area. There is new and updated information on how to grow natives in your yard and information on workshops and classes going on throughout the county. Volunteers like Jim and many others make it possible for us to accomplish our goals and protect native plants and their habitats.

Everyone can find a way to help keep our chapter running. Please get in touch with any of the committee chairs or board members listed on the back page to get more involved in one of the many activities our chapter undertakes. Better yet, we still need volunteers for the plant sale, hospitality, and on our Board. It’s a great opportunity to meet people that share your interests in native plants.

Carolyn

CALENDAR

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

June 21 (3rd Tue), PLANT SALE COMMITTEE MEETS
6:30 p.m. Room 104, just before the chapter meeting

June 21 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING & PROGRAM
Meeting at 7:00 p.m., Program at 7:30 p.m., Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park.

July 13 (2nd Wed), CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

July 19 (3rd Tue), PLANT SALE COMMITTEE MEETS

July 19 (3rd Tue), CHAPTER MEETING & PROGRAM
**CHAPTER MATTERS**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

At our May 11 Board of Director’s meeting, we discussed ideas for sponsoring a local habitat restoration project. One idea is to partner with Audubon, the SD River Park Foundation, and the City to more quickly improve an area in Mission Bay or along the San Diego River.

Cindy Burrascano and Marty Foltyn will prepare a Book Plan to take to CNPS Press, with a proposal that they publish member Margaret Filius’ Torrey Pines Wildflower identification guide. Margaret has compiled a great set of photos and we have some money dedicated toward book publishing, but it is not sufficient to cover the costs of this project.

Cindy Burrascano described her work with CNPS President Carol Witham in writing a letter to Senator Feinstein on behalf of the State CNPS in opposition to the Triple Border Fence. The letter reviewed the endangered and rare plants that would be impacted, the reduced apprehension rates, and the $58 million cost of the project and urged her to support a state-of-the-art fence and real mitigation for project impacts.

Carrie Schneider

**CNPS SD IS GOING TO THE FAIR**

CNPS is going to the county fair on Friday June 17th! If you would like to help out at our public outreach booth that day, please contact Carolyn Martus or e-mail info@cnpssd.org. Volunteers and their families will get into the fair for free!

Dave Flietner

**TRIPLE BORDER FENCE APPROVED**

The Real ID Act of 2005, containing the provision that the Triple Border Fence and any border barrier may be exempted from any law by the Director of Homeland Security is now the law of the land. This Orwellian law was included in the House’s Emergency Supplemental Appropriation bill for the Iraq war, the war on terror, tsunami relief, etc., etc. The Senate passed the $82 billion appropriations bill without including the Real ID Act on April 21.

Instead of going to the Senate Judiciary Committee for review, the House re-attached the Real ID Act to the appropriations bill, and the House – Senate conference committee approved it. Senator Feinstein voted with a few other Democratic Senators to exclude it from the conference report because of the lack of review by the Senate Judiciary Committee, where she is a member. On May 10, the Senate unanimously passed the conference report. The bill was signed by President Bush on May 11.

Passage of the law revives the lawsuit bought by CNPS, the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association, Audubon, and others against the original plan. It was found to be moot when the Coastal Commission rejected the Triple Fence in 2004. Now the coalition of environmental groups will seek to challenge the constitutionality of the new law in federal court.

Dave Flietner

**BORDER FIELDS T-SHIRTS**

If you didn’t get a chance to buy one of these stunning t-shirts at our May meeting, there’s still time to commemorate the “Border Fields Botanical Treasures” now slated for destruction. Printed on pre-shrunk Hane’s Beefy-T’s in sizes S to XL, the gorgeous four-color print features illustrations of Baja Birdbush, Shaw’s Agave, Orcutt’s Dudleya, and Brand’s Phacelia by local artist Scott Bosciewitz.

All profits from the sales will go toward our continuing effort to protect these plants and their habitat through the judicial system. The cost is $15 each. They will be available at our monthly meetings, or I will mail them directly to you for a $5 S&H charge, no matter how many you order.

Please send your check and the sizes of the t-shirts you want to me at 4430 Cleveland Ave #18, San Diego, CA 92116.

Dave Flietner
CHAPTER MATTERS

NEW GRASS POSTERS ARRIVE

We have beautiful new grass posters available. Each set of posters has four 12”x18” posters (three of native grasses, one of invasive grasses). On the back of each poster is information on grasses: the anatomy of a grass; grasses in general; California’s native grasslands; the effect of invasive grasses. These posters are suitable for hanging, with or without framing, and the laminated ones can be used as place mats or educational tools in classes or in the field. The hope of the CNPS poster committee (Bertha McKinley and Wilma Follie) is that Kristin Jakob’s beautiful art work will inspire more Californians to appreciate and work to preserve our elegant native grasses.

Each set of 4 mini posters will sell for $15.00 plus tax and the laminated ones will be $20 plus tax. Posters can be purchased at our monthly meetings or ordered through the state website, www.cnps.org. Large orders for gift shops or nature centers should be coordinated through our sales table chairperson Sue Marchetti, see back of newsletter for contact info. We currently only have available the un-laminated posters. The laminated ones will be available shortly.

SALE COMMENT INVITED

Do you have any comments or input regarding our Fall Plant Sale? We would like to hear from you. What plants do you really want to buy at the plant sale? How can we make things better for customers at our fall plant sale? Got any ideas in general regarding our fall plant sale? Drop us an e-mail at plantsale@cnpssd.org

FALL PLANT SALE

The plant sale committee holds regular meetings at 6:30 pm just before regularly scheduled chapter meetings. Members wanting to help with planning and implementing the sale are invited to attend the committee meetings.

HOME GROWERS

If you are interested in growing plants for the October plant sale, please e-mail info@cnpssd.org. We buy many plants from native plant nurseries and sell them at the plant sale. If members will grow the plants for the sale, it increases our profit and our abilities to protect more native plants and their habitats. We can help you with propagation techniques as well as pots and soil. Please get in touch, we need your help.

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Buena Vista Native Plant Club offers our North County members a chance to get together with other native plant enthusiasts without driving down to San Diego. BVNPC meets every third Sunday at 2:00 p.m. at the Buena Vista Nature Center, 2202 South Coast Highway, Oceanside. That makes June 19 our next monthly meeting. This meeting will be informal, so it will be a great opportunity for new folks to come by and get to know us.

Joan Bockman, President BVNPC

FALL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 15

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS
LOVE NATURE? HATE DRIVING?

If you're like me, commuting to work all week as a slow-moving link in the freeway tapeworm, the last thing you want to do on the weekend is drive somewhere to take a hike. If you live in San Diego, the chances are good that you are within walking or biking distance of an open space nature preserve. Many are in canyons with native habitats awaiting your discovery.

Check out the extent of San Diego’s canyons at http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/canyons. There are active canyon “Friends” groups in the following canyons: 32nd Street, Buchanan, Chollas Creek, City Heights, Cottonwood Creek, Dove, Maple, Normal Heights, Penasquitos, Rice (in Chula Vista), Rose Creek, Ruffin, San Clemente/Marianne Bear, Shepherd, Switzer, and University Heights. Any of these groups would welcome and benefit from involvement by CNPS members.

Even more important are the canyons that don’t have “Friends” looking after them. Eric Bowlby, the Canyon Preservation Organizer, is seeking people that are interested in working to start or reactivate a Friends group for their local canyon. You may have neighbors with the same interest, and just need a catalyst to get going. Eric will teach you how to publicize, organize, and mobilize to preserve and enjoy our local open space. To learn more, contact Eric Bowlby, Sierra Club Canyon Preservation Organizer, 619-284-9399, savewetlands@cox.net

-- Carrie Schneider

FLATTEN AND FILL?

Over the past three years, the Friends of 32nd Street Canyon, in cooperation with CNPS and many granting agencies, has removed trash from the canyon, eradicated two acres of Arundo donax, planted 500 native plants, and developed “Kids in the Canyons” tours for elementary school students. Now this hard work is threatened. The San Diego Unified School District has resurrected its plan to flatten and fill part of the canyon for a ball field. This issue led to the original formation of the Friends group, which thought it had successfully resolved this issue in December 2003.

A ball field in Golden Hills would be great, but this project would impact rare plants, wetlands, and a tributary to San Diego’s most impaired waterway. The site is on a 17% grade on a very busy street without off-street parking. To get to the ball field, children would need to cross a 60-foot wide wetland that the Friends group and the City of San Diego are restoring.

Prop MM, the $1.5 school construction bond, requires community interaction, yet the School District is acting in opposition to the Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee’s written desire that the area remain natural.

During school construction, the School District impacted the streambed, receiving two notices of violation from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Construction resulted in collapsing stream banks, erosion and sink holes in the canyon floor. Recently, School District officials admitted that the demographics don’t justify building the new school set to open in September 2006. Brooklyn Elementary School will soon be “surplused” and its students and administration will move to the new campus, together with 300-plus students from outside Golden Hill. Is all this -- for a school Golden Hill didn’t need anyway -- not enough? Please write to School Board members expressing your opposition to this totally irresponsible plan. All are at San Diego City Schools; 4100 Normal Street, Room 2231; San Diego, CA 92103.

President Luis Acle (whose nominating district encompasses Golden Hill) (lacle@sandi.net); Vice-President Mitz Lee (mitz@mitzlee.com); John de Beck (jdebeck1@san.rr.com); Shiela Jackson (sjackson@sandi.net); Katherine Nakamura (knakamura@sandi.net).

If you can, please protest this plan in person at the School Board meeting June 7, starting at 3:00 p.m. at the address above. If you want further information on how to get involved, please call me at 619/239-6120.

-- Tershia d’Elgin

RECYCLE THAT POT

Recycle your one gallon plastic pots and RAISE MONEY FOR CNPS! CNPS San Diego has joined with Las Pilitas Native Plant Nursery in Escondido (www.laspilitas.com) or (760)749-5930 to recycle more one gallon plastic pots and raise money to protect native plants. Simply bring your one-gallon plastic pots to Las Pilitas and for every pot you bring in they will credit CNPS San Diego with 10 cents. The nursery is located in San Diego County about a half mile south of the I-15 off of Old 395 at 8331 Nelson Way, Escondido, 92026, Thomas Guide 1068 J-3

-- Tershia d’Elgin
PLANTS MATTER

**HABITAT FOR DUDLEYA**

Rock-inhabiting lichens serve to trap seeds and to enhance seedling survival of the rare and/or threatened *Dudleya* species that are restricted to steep cliff and rock habitats. Fruticose lichens, especially *Niebla ceruchoides* (the pincushion lichen), are richly branched, and thereby, effectively trap minute *Dudleya* seeds as they are dispersed by wind and rain across rock outcrops. These bush-like lichens collect airborne soil particles and absorb moisture from fog, thereby creating a microhabitat that facilitates the establishment of *Dudleya* seedlings in the otherwise inhospitable conditions found on sheer rock faces.

Biological crusts that grow as a thin mantle over rock or soil may also play an important role in the establishment and survival of many *Dudleya* species. In particular, members of the *Dudleya cymosa* complex appear to be associated with moss-dominated crusts over rock. The biological association of these cryptograms with rare *Dudleya* species is important in designing habitat-specific conservation plans for these rare species. Habitat assessment programs must include monitoring of these lichens, bryophytes, and crust organisms not only for their own sake, but also to assure that these habitats persist in order to sustain viable populations of these rare *Dudleya* species.

Undisturbed stabilized open-habitat soils are the bare, to sparsely vegetated microhabitats generally associated with nutrient-poor substrates. They occur in many plant communities, and over a wide range of geomorphic surfaces in southern California. Characteristically, these soils support a conspicuous and diverse biological soil crust comprised commonly of turf-forming mosses, squamulose and crustose lichens, fruticose lichen species (*Cladonia*), cyanolichens of the genus *Collema*, and cyanobacteria, which mostly grow within a few millimeters of the soil surface, and occasionally, the leaf-like *Xanthoparmelia* lichens. The bushy spike-moss is common, and the mesa spike-moss, *Selaginella cinerascens*, is often intimately associated with rare *Dudleya* species on mesas in San Diego County and Baja California, Mexico. The most notable feature of encrusted open-habitat soils is the near absence of exotic weeds, regardless of soil type or plant community (Riefner and St. John 2000).

Excerpted from Crossoma by Cindy Burrascano with permission of authors.

**HATS OFF**

**TO CAL TRANS**

Thanks to Caltrans for responding to our requests to control the highly invasive weed, pampas grass (*Cortadria selloana*) along the shoulders of I-805 and SR 52 in the University City area. The results of Caltrans’ spraying this spring of the many clumps of pampas grass in the area means that no new seed heads will spread to the Rose Canyon and San Clemente Canyon natural areas.

Observant drivers will notice that plenty of pampas grass remains on other properties, such as University City Village Apartments (UCVA), right across the canyon from Marian Bear Park. We have asked UCVA to control their pampas grass farm, but without success, yet.

If you would like to report a weed problem on Caltrans property that could spread to nearby nature preserve, please email Heidi Martin, Regional Environmental Maintenance Liaison at heidi_martin@dt.ca.gov. And thank her for the good work along I-805 and SR 52!

Carrie Schneider

**TO THE WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN**

Thanks to the Water Conservation Garden (www.thegarden.org) for removing the invasive Brazilian pepper trees (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) from their landscape! Please express your thanks to them by e-mailing info@thegarden.org or call (619) 660-0614 or drop them a personal thank-you note, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA 92019. Let them know how wonderful it is that they are removing invasive plants from their landscaping!

Carolyn

**NATIVE PLANT HOTLINE**

Rancho Santa Anna Botanical Gardens has set up a native plant gardening hotline, both phone or e-mail, where you can get all your questions answered. See this weblink for more info: http://www.rsabg.org/hort/
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. This is one of the few places in the country that Nuttals Lotus is found and the work here is intended to enhance the habitat for the lotus. 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 Team 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.sdlcc.org/flc

Lake Murray Shoreline. Call 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.

NOTE that the enrollment deadline is past, even so, if you really are interested, it won’t hurt to inquire.

Invasive Plant School, Wednesday - Thursday, June 15 - 16. Co-sponsored by the California Weed Science Society and the San Diego Weed Management Area. Registration fee is $100, which includes all course materials, lunch both days, continental breakfast on June 16, and refreshments during breaks. Enrollment is limited to 50 persons on a first come/first served basis; the deadline for enrollment is May 27. For further information contact Carl E. Bell at (858) 694-3386 or cebell@ucdavis.edu.

HELP MAP THE MUSTARD

Going to see desert wildflowers? Help put Saharan mustard on the map!

Go to www.cal-ipc.org and click on “Help Map the Saharan Mustard”

You can help create a range map of Saharan mustard (Brassica tournefortii, or BT), which has enjoyed a bumper crop in the California desert with this winter’s rains. The map will help document the weed’s spread, and plan control strategies.

What you will need:
• A good detailed map of the roads you will be driving—you will mark on this map and mail it to us, so you have to be ready to part with it. Photocopies of gazetteer pages work well. For a good overview map of the California desert, with roads and parks, follow the cal-ipc web-link above.
• A driver and a note taker—this is a two-person job
• A good idea of what Saharan mustard looks like—follow the cal-ipc weblink above

June 4, 2005, Saturday. All day. National Trails Day Celebration in Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Join dozens of organizations and hundreds of hikers at this annual celebration of trail sports! Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Black Mountain Road at Mercy Road, City of San Diego (Mira Mesa)

June 18, Saturday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Annual (MSCP) Report meeting. Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center, One Junipero Serra Drive. Learn what the City has been doing to fulfill its obligations under the Multiple Species Conservation Plan.
Lilies and Their Relatives:
Instructor: Fred Roberts
Lilies and their relatives, including yuccas, agaves, mariposa lilies, onions, and brodiaeas, are among the most popular groups of plants in San Diego County. A half-day field trip will look at various species of lilies and their relatives. Price includes van transportation.
Class: Wednesday, June 1; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Field trip: Saturday, June 4; 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
Member $59; Nonmember $69 Class Code: S5-330-03
To register: Call (619) 2255-0203 or visit

June 2, Thursday. 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.  Post-Fire Research and Recovery “Show and Tell.” San Diego Natural History Museum, Balboa Park. The workshop will focus on learning together; establishing connections among participants; and understanding local fire ecology and wildfire recovery since the wildfires of 2002 and 2003. The words "show and tell" imply that everyone will contribute - make a poster, give a presentation, show a photo or map, bring something, or just participate in the dialogue. Beverages/appetizers at 5:00 ($5 each, students free).

12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon
Cuyamaca College

Sun, June 5 Gardening for Wildlife. 10:00 am- noon,
Learn how your garden can be a “host site” for bird and butterfly populations, including Monarchs, Painted Ladies, and hummingbirds. See, touch, and taste plants that will attract winged wildlife to your garden. $8.
Call (619) 660-0614 for availability and payment information.

June 15, Wednesday.  Firescaping with Native Plants, 7:00-8:30pm.  Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon. Practical tips for protecting your home in fire-prone San Diego from Greg Rubin, owner of California’s Own Native Landscape Design. Greg guides you through the essentials of creating a fire-wise landscape with native plants emphasizing plant selection, care, and proper placement.  Free.  Call (619) 660-0614 to reserve your place.
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  JUNE 2005
Chapter Message Phone 619-685-7321; www.cnpssd.org; info@cnpssd.org

BOARD OFFICERS
PRESIDENT: Carolyn Martus..............................(760) 434-5033
VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Flietner.......................(619) 501-3789h
SECRETARY: Linda Pardy...............................(619) 583-7191h
TREASURER: Marty Foltyn............................(858) 259-0283h
(858) 720-9780w

OTHER Elected BOARD MEMBERS
CONSERVATION: Cindy Burrascano...................(619) 421-5767h
BOOK SALES: Susan Marchetti......................(858) 273-6486h
PROGRAMS: Catherine MacGregor...................(619) 435-2165h
LEGISLATION: Peter St. Clair.......................(619) 260-1394w
PAST PRES. & PUBLICITY: Carrie Schneider.......(858) 352-4413w
RESTORATION: Bruce Hanson.......................(619) 262-8905h
BOARD MEMBER: OPEN

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS
MEMBERSHIP: John Hacklander.....................(858) 651-4203w
NEWSLETTER:
Content: Dave Flietner...................................(see Vice Pres)
Makup: Jim Harrison...................................(858) 273-5242
HORTICULTURE: Connie Beck Crusha..............(619) 749-4059
HOSPITALITY: Lisa Markovchick...................(619) 549-6592
EDUCATION: Rick Halsey.............................(760) 822-0029w
LIBRARIAN: Kathy Coogan
VEGETATION: Lexine Schroeder...................(619) 729-5715
RARE PLANTS: Fred Roberts.........................(760) 439-6244
FIELD TRIPS: Darren Smith.........................(619) 231-2789
WEBSITE: Jim Wirt ...................................(858) 259-0283h
INVASIVE PLANTS: Carolyn Martus................(see Pres.)
NOTE: PLANT SALE, POSTER SALES, OUTREACH and one BOARD position are OPEN.
NOTE: For mailing label and membership issues contact John Hacklander.

(ref 4/30/05 roster)