

CHAPTER ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER - YEAR 2005

NAME AND POSITION OF PERSON PREPARING REPORT: Carolyn Martus, President

The San Diego Chapter requests a subvention.

OVERVIEW OF CHAPTER –

CNPS-San Diego actively works to conserve our floristic heritage by writing comment letters on development proposals, serving as a local expert on plants to local agencies, and filing lawsuits if necessary. The Chapter is currently organizing work parties to support the survival of *Lotus nuttallianus* (Nuttall's lotus) in Mission Bay, and *Monardella viminea* (Willow monardella) in Lopez Canyon. Monitoring the Multiple Species Conservation Plan is one of the tasks of the Chapter's Conservation committee.

We recognize that invasive non-native plants are a major threat to native plant habitats and have developed a number of educational programs. The chapter has become a leader in fighting invasive species in projects as varied as proposing legislation to control the sale of pampas grass, holding work parties to hand-weed sensitive habitats, lobbying agencies such as CalTrans to use more native plants and stop using invasive species, and working with the local chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects to develop the "San Diego County Invasive Ornamental Plant Guide" which is now on www.asla-sandiego.org.

For many of our members, gardening with natives is their primary interest and meetings that spotlight native gardening techniques are always popular. We try to sponsor two talks on native plant gardening (Jan and Sept) and sponsor two native plant sales every year (March and October). Our sale in March is done in conjunction with the Tree of Life Nursery and they supply all the plants. Our plant sale in October is completely run by volunteers and this year we increased our inventory to almost 4,000 plants. The plant sale succeeds based on the efforts of dozens of volunteers; the thousands of dollars raised on this day allow us to pursue our goals in conservation, restoration, and education throughout the year. For example, the Chapter has launched a program to award grants and free consultations to teachers who are establishing native plant gardens at local schools. To date, twenty San Diego County schools have received funds and/or plants to develop school native gardens. Our members also staff CNPS booths at fairs and exhibitions around the county.

Our other major source of income is our book sales which are held in conjunction with our monthly meetings and lectures. We sponsor ten lectures (monthly meetings) annually that are free and open to the public.

This is the first year in about two years that we have had an active volunteer running and coordinating our vegetation program. Having a volunteer vegetation coordinator has been helpful and I'm sure the state also appreciates having a volunteer at the local level to assist in coordinating the surveys.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

1. Board Meetings:

- 1.1. Ten Board meetings, 11 board members (3 hours, ~8 members each = 240 hours)
- 1.2. Board support (Treasurer's report and Minutes preparation) (30 hours)
- 1.3. Other support: Mail handling and respond to voice mail and chapter email (100 hours)

2. Field Trips

- 2.1. Rancho La Puerta in Mexico (visited their native plant garden) 20 hours coordinating and executing – Connie Beck April 2005
- 2.2. Four field trips to Border Fields State Park to inventory plants- Dave Flietner (16 hours)

3. Programs

At each program, we set up our books and refreshments, total time coordinating speakers and setting up/taking down room, 108 hours

- Jan - Who Speaks for the Shrublands? by Kurt Schaker
- Feb – Manzanitas of San Diego by James lightner
- Mar – Water Conservation and Native Plants by Vicki Driver
- Apr – Use of Population Models for Conservation of an Endangered Australian Plant, *Grevillea caleyi* Dr. Helen Regan
- May – Native Plants for Wildlife by Mike Evans
- June – San Diego County Plant Atlas, Dr. Jon Rebman
- Jul – An Overview of the County’s Weed Management Programs and Projects by Bill Winans
- Sep – California Native Plants for the Garden by Bart O’Brien
- Oct – Belly Plants of the Desert by Ileene Anderson
- Nov – San Diego Plant Biogeography by Tom Oberbauer

4. Newsletter

- 4.1. 12 issues/year. Volunteers edit the newsletter and maintain the mailing list (140 volunteer hours).
- 4.2. \$6000 annual cost to print and mail.

5. Public Outreach Events

- 5.1. Preparation and distribution of “Advice about Landscaping the Fire Zone in San Diego” – 16 hours
- 5.2. “Greening of San Diego” event – 4 hours
- 5.3. “Baskets and Botany” event at the Tecolote Nature Center April 30, 2005 – 6 hr
- 5.4. Maintenance of display and handouts – 15 hours
- 5.5. Distribution of “Don’t Plant a Pest” brochure, SoCal version – 4 hours
- 5.6. Discussed native plants with Aveda employees – 3 hours
- 5.7. Water Conservation Garden Festival – 10 hours
- 5.8. San Diego Hort Society Meetings – 9 hours
- 5.9. Tecolote Nature Center, host and nature walks- Kay Stewart – 12 hours
- 5.10. Tecate Environment Day – Connie Beck- 10 hours
- 5.11. Speech at “Make Friends Not Fences” protest demonstration at Border Fields State Park – Dave Flietner – 12 hours
- 5.12. Participated in the San Diego Estuary Exploration put on by the City of San Diego-Gary Suttle/Cindy Burrascano – 8 hours

6. Education Efforts

- 6.1. School Garden Program
 - 6.1.1. Supported fifteen new native gardens at schools by a grant, plants, and planting and design advice.
 - 6.1.2. Hosted a propagation workshop for the schools. (25 hours)
- 6.2. Continued to update handouts, made digital files of many older handouts, so they can be sent electronically to festivals and workshops. (5 hours)

7. Conservation

- 7.1. **Coalitions** - Represented CNPS at meetings of the:
 - 7.1.1. County Otay River Valley Watershed Planning effort
 - 7.1.2. County's Northern MSCP planning meetings and North County Open Space Coalition
 - 7.1.3. County Quino Checkerspot MSCP Coverage Committee
 - 7.1.4. Partners for Biodiversity (8 hours)
 - 7.1.5. Served as CNPS representative on the San Diego Open Space Canyons Advisory Committee – 30 hours
 - 7.1.6. Conservation Resource Network (4 hours)
 - 7.1.7. International Workshop on Border Issues, Ensenada Mexico (48 hours)
 - 7.1.8. Representative on the San Dieguito River Park
 - 7.1.9. Off-road Vehicle Park for State Parks in San Diego
- 7.2. **Other Meetings:**
 - 7.2.1. Attended meetings concerning trails and the Tijuana River Valley.
 - 7.2.2. Attended the MSCP annual meeting
 - 7.2.3. Talked with reporters concerning MSCP (Seattle Post Intelligencer)
 - 7.2.4. Talked with reporters concerning Border Infrastructure issues (Full Focus KPBS)
 - 7.2.5. Los Caballos Campground -State Parks
 - 7.2.6. East County MSCP
 - 7.2.7. Plant Atlas Advisory Group
 - 7.2.8. Zoological Society Seed Bank
 - 7.2.9. San Dieguito River Park Citizens Advisory Board (31 hours Deb DeBow and Don Miller)
- 7.3. **Letters written on:**
 - 7.3.1. Failure of *Centromadia* mitigation
 - 7.3.2. Real ID Act of 2005 (to Sen. Feinstein) (5 hours)
 - 7.3.3. Support letters for land acquisitions.
 - 7.3.4. Filed a few complaints with the County concerning illegal grading which were acted upon
 - 7.3.5. Willowy monardella Critical Habitat
 - 7.3.6. Illegal take of *Brodiaea filifolia*
 - 7.3.7. Miramar Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan
 - 7.3.8. Los Caballos Campground in *Limnanthes* habitat
 - 7.3.9. Mira Mesa elementary school on degraded vernal pools
- 7.4. **Lawsuit:**
 - 7.4.1. Participating in a lawsuit challenging the adequacy of analysis for the Border Fence Infrastructure Project after having attended numerous meetings concerning the project; with co-plaintiffs from the Sierra Club, San Diego Audubon, San Diego Baykeeper, Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Center, and Center for Biological Diversity. Attended Court mandated settlement hearings and Final hearing in Judge Burns court.
- 7.5. **Invasive Plants**
 - 7.5.1. Assisting in developing the Don't Plant a Pest Brochure for Southern California, providing review and photos – 10 hours
 - 7.5.2. Continued working with ASLA to publish the "Invasive Plant Guide to San Diego." Committee includes 10 people, 2 CNPS members and 8 ASLA members. Workshop to be held in 2006. – 100 hours
 - 7.5.3. Letter to editor of San Diego Home and Garden concerning avoiding invasive non-native species was published. – 2 hr
 - 7.5.4. Submitted Plant Assessment Form concerning invasions of *Chrysanthemum coronarium* and *Dimorphotheca sinuata* to Cal-IPC . – 4 hr
 - 7.5.5. Consulted on invasiveness of various species with CalIPC staff (esp Palms)

- 7.5.6. Shared invasive information with students from High Tech Middle School who developed educational materials for fellow students 2 hr
- 7.6. Letter to editor of San Diego City Beat concerning presentation of vernal pools at Miramar was published - May 11, 2005 – 2 hr
- 7.7. Wrote letter supporting glyphosate use to City Councilmember Donna Frye in order to gain support for effective treatment of a City-maintained site. – 4 hours
- 7.8. Commented on *Hecastocleis shockleyi* for the Inventory
- 7.9. We continue to track the Centromadia-Trimark legal settlement requirements of USFWS. Sadly, Refuges is trying to claim success after only one true year of weed control after a few first starts in prior years. It is exceedingly disappointing that even though we got Refuges the money to do the 5 years of management, only about two years total work was done and those were not consecutive years as is needed with weed work.
- 7.10. Vegetation Committee
 - 7.10.1 Training sessions: One weekend-long training session (8 hours per day for 2 days) each on Revele protocol and Rapid Assessment protocol. Required approximately (20) hours of volunteer coordinator's time to organize. Six (6) volunteers were trained at the first session, and (4) volunteers were trained at the second session.
 - 7.10.2 Surveys: (1) Revele survey at Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, (6) Rapid Assessment surveys at Boulder Oaks Preserve, (1) Rapid Assessment survey at Ramona Grasslands (4 trips total).
 - 7.10.3 Total coordinating and volunteer time on surveys/training sessions: 280 hours (including travel)

8. Work Parties

- 8.1. Mission Bay Native Plant Display Area – to assist survival of *Lotus nuttallianus* and its sand dune associates at Hospitality Point and No Man's. 75 hours
- 8.2. Sprayed at Mariner's Point Least Tern nesting area (*Lotus nuttallianus* site)
- 8.3. Iceplant Pull with City of San Diego MSCP staff at No Man's Land in Mission Bay
- 8.4. *Monardella viminea* restoration in Lopez Canyon 170 hours.

9. Legislative Activity

- 9.1. Wrote many letters to elected officials on legislative issues that effect native plants and habitat.
- 9.2. Met with SANDAG chief financial officer and planning director to understand the financial and biological impact of Prop A--a local transportation funding measure. Wrote newsletter articles for members assessing pro and con of proposed habitat restoration and project mitigation plans.
- 9.3. Attended Chapter Council meeting and wrote up results in our newsletter for members.
- 9.4. Reviewed the legislative year in Congress and State legislature and created a "scorecard" to be published in our newsletter.
- 9.5. Continued attempts to get CalTrans to use more native plants; to create demonstration gardens where members can see natives in a garden or landscape setting; to get California Department of Fish & Game to adopt better policies and procedures with respect to permanent protection of mitigation sites.
- 9.6. Read ID Act of 2005 (30 hours)

10. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows

- 10.1. Spring Plant Sale, at Tree of Life nursery (30 hours)
- 10.2. Fall Plant Sale – Balboa Park – Oct. 16, 2004
 - 10.2.1. 250 volunteer hours
 - 10.2.2. About 5% donated, members grown, or salvaged plant material.
 - 10.2.3. 4000 plants were available for sale, and about 300 taxa.

11. Other Activities

11.1. Grants to third parties:

- 11.1.1. \$1500 for school gardens (see above)
- 11.2. Donated \$11,000 to member Margaret Fillius to publish “ Native Plants of Torrey Pines and surrounding areas in San Diego County”
- 11.3. Assisted with Chicano Park design and plant – 5 hours
- 11.4. Worked on design for native plants in Lemon Grove Park – 6 hours.
- 11.5. We showed our Celebration of Native Plant Landscape slide show four times last year. (12 hours of volunteer time)
- 11.6. Developed and sold Border Fields tee shirt as fundraiser for Border Fields lawsuit (50 hours)
- 11.7. Book Sales: Approximately 70 hours inventorying, ordering, and selling books
- 11.8. Consultations
 - 11.8.1. Assisted in efforts to attract new volunteer/"friends" leadership for Pt. Loma Native Plant Reserve
 - 11.8.2. Continue to support the Buena Vista Native Plant Club in Oceanside with technical support and advice.
- 11.9. Attended Chapter Council meetings (64 hours)
- 11.10. Sent letters concerning poster sales potential to various local groups
- 11.11. Funded publication of Margaret Fillius' book , *Native Plants Torrey Pines State Reserve & nearby San Diego County Locations* dedicated to Jennifer Stone using the Stone Memorial Funds and a Hollis Foundation grant.