CHAPTER MEETING

JANUARY 21, 2020
Casa del Prado Room 101, Balboa Park

6:30 pm – TBA; check website www.cnpssd.org
7:00 pm – Browsing, & socializing
7:30 pm – Brief Business Meeting
7:45 pm – Main Presentation

Main Presentation
New Calflora Tools for CNPS Users
by Cynthia Powell

Join Calflora’s Executive Director Cynthia Powell to discuss new Calflora tools for CNPS Calflora users. Calflora’s plant database hosts over 2 million plant occurrences, some of which come directly from San Diego CNPS members. Cynthia will cover Calflora’s new plant photo project, planting guide, population monitoring tools, and email alerts, and will speak more generally about the uses of Calflora for CNPS chapters. She would also like to know how Calflora can better serve the San Diego CNPS Chapter and to answer any of your questions.

Wednesday morning, January 22, 9 am-noon, join us for a hands-on data collecting hike. This hike will be rigorous and we will practice the tools we learned the evening before, including adding data to the Calflora database using Observer Pro phone application. No data or connectivity needed in the field to use Observer Pro; sign in using your Calflora email address and password, or register as a data contributor here. Location TBD.

Winter Workshop

Saturday, January 25, 2020; 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park

Integrating Sustainability into your California Native Garden

CNPS-San Diego is excited to present a day-long workshop that includes 5 presentations on understanding symbiotic relationships in your native garden and incorporating sustainable and regenerative practices. The workshop will be held in the beautiful, contemporary auditorium of the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park. An extended 80-minute lunch ‘hour’ will allow you to picnic or dine in the park as you discuss and absorb the morning presentations. Nearby exhibits of native gardens will be available for viewing.

WHAT YOU’LL LEARN
• Positive impacts your yard can have on biodiversity and revamping our wilderness spaces.
• Passive and active methods for harvesting rainwater.
• Permaculture & agroecology methods for native gardens.
• How the soil system works and the importance of caring for your soil.
• Real world applications of bio-swale rainwater retention systems and other sustainable design concepts recently implemented at a landscape installation!

Register here: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4452989
Cynthia Powell. After 3 years as CalFlora’s GIS Project Manager, Cynthia is now CalFlora’s Executive Director. She graduated with her MS in GIS in 2010 forecasting Mokelumne River water supply based on MODIS remote sensing snow pack images. She’s been examining what was under that snow — plants — ever since. She now coordinates all CalFlora programs, research, out-reach, and advocacy, as well as fundraising and management.

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 – 9:00ish p.m. 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego (Thomas Guide 1248 C4). CNPS-SD Executive Board meetings are always the first Wednesday of the month, except when the 1st Wednesday falls on a holiday. Members are welcome to attend as observers. To add an issue to the agenda, please email president@cnpssd.org.

FIELD TRIPS

Cabrillo National Monument Field Trip with Cynthia Powell
Wed, Jan 22; · 9:00 am - noon

DIFFICULTY: EASY to MODERATE (bayside hike).
PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Amateur botanist +, Professionals always welcome!
ACCESS: Field Trip · Open to all. Parking fee is $10 per vehicle at Monument entry. Meet at the Visitor’s Center entryway. [SEVERE WEATHER CANCELS EVENT]

For everyone attending the CNPS Chapter meeting on Tuesday evening, January 21, our main speaker the Executive Director of CalFlora.org, Cynthia Powell (see below). It’s been through her incredible vision and hard work that we all have access to such an amazing next gen botanical tool for California. The next morning on Wednesday, she is helping to lead the field trip to on the peninsula where she and I (Justin Daniel) will cover the flora of Cabrillo National Monument and we’ll get a look at the CalFlora online tools and how they integrate with scientific data collected by researchers and occasionally by citizen scientists. If you have the time, I encourage you to attend both events to get a more in depth look at the state of public engagement tools in person and in the field.

FIELD TRIP to CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT (Wednesday)
The tip of the Point Loma Peninsula has been an icon and important resource for native and introduced San Diegans for centuries. Before Juan Cabrillo sailed into San Diego Bay in 1542, the Kumeyaay hunted and fished the bay and ocean, using the point as the primary means of navigating offshore in reed boats, harvesting abalone, and gathering eggs and seeds. The point later became strategic for shipping with the lighthouses that have stood on the point since 1854. Point Loma was important during WWII and remains a place of military, cultural, and economic importance today.

For the botanical aspects of Cabrillo National Monument, it is in many ways unique in the nation as one of the few places where species common to Baja and the Channel Islands pop over onto the mainland US. Expect to see rare species such as Shaw’s agave (Agave shawii), golden cholla (Bergerocactus emoryi), sea dahlia (Leptosyne [Coreopsis] maritima; left, photo by B. Stephenson), cliff spurge (Euphorbia misera), California boxthorn (Lycium californicum), and Orcutt’s yellow pincushion (Chaenactis glabriuscula var. occidentalis). January is early for most annuals and perennials, but with the recent heavy rains, I expect we'll still have quite a lot of bloom.

Point Loma’s plant communities are widely varied from the offshore kelp forest and near shore tidal zone (with beautiful tide pools, rock reef, surf grass greens, and sandy beaches), up to the sandy southern maritime scrub on the perilous oceanside cliffs and coastal sage scrub on the bayside. Little patches of riparian habitat dot the point along with a smattering of scrub oak chaparral and maritime succulent scrub.

If you're coming along for the wildlife, the pace of the trip will be way too fast or slow. We'll still be in the company of wintering (migratory) and year-round resident songbirds, sea birds, and raptors like ospreys, hawks, & kestrels. Cabrillo National Monument is one of the best birding spots in San Diego County, evidenced by eBird.org (another great citizen science tool!).

CNPS-SD JANUARY CHAPTER MEETING w/ Cynthia Powell [Tuesday]
The talk begins at 7:30 pm on January 21 in Room 101 of the Casa Del Prado in Balboa Park, directly across Village Place from the NATural History Museum (interior courtyard). Doors open at 6 pm for socializing, book sales, light snacks, and educational displays. The talk should last until 9 pm with Q&A, if time permits.

For both events, come prepared for the weather. Proper shoes and clothing for wind and light mist and possible muddy spots.

CARPOOL: Carpool is not offered by me for this trip, unfortunately. I highly suggest carpooling to save on fees and gas by meeting at the Fashion Valley Rd Transit Station at 8:20
am (west end) and parking in the diagonal spaces. The parking is free and patrolled by security on occasion.

DIRECTIONS: Meet at the Cabrillo National Monument Visitor Center, 1800 Cabrillo Memorial Drive, San Diego CA. From the Midway District, take either Rosecrans or Nimitz south into Pt Loma. If Nimitz, turn west on Chatsworth and follow onto Catalina Blvd. If Rosecrans, take Talbot to Catalina. Continue SOUTH to the terminus.

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair

Algodones Dunes Day Trip - Imperial County
Sun, Jan 26; 10:00 am – 2:30 pm
[ALL WEATHER EVENT]

DIFFICULTY: EASY to MODERATE < 4 miles.
PLANT KNOWLEDGE: Beginner to Novice, Professionals always welcome.
ACCESS: Open to all, no charge.

Algodones Dunes is best known for the Glamis OHV Ride Area in eastern Imperial County. As one travels east along SR-78 from Brawley, the dunes are unmistakable for the huge towering ribbons of sand they form on the horizon. On one side of the highway (the more traveled side), the occasional creosote bush pops out among a blasted and barren environment, crossed with thousands of tire tracks beating down any life that isn’t moving at breakneck speed. On the other side of the highway to the north is the BLM Wilderness Area that is protected from vehicles and campers. This area is thriving with desert iguanas, flat tailed horned lizards, banded geckos, western whiptails, a wide variety of snakes, and raptors aplenty. Of course, these species rely on the butterflies, crickets, scorpions, spiders, moths, beetles, etc., for survival. In turn, these pillars of the food web are here because of the rare dune specialized plants and wide array of leaves, nectar, and roots the wildlife forage on.

For the first section of the day trip, we'll meet at the Gecko Rd Ranger Station and then drive to the Osborne Overlook to view winter/spring annuals and hardy perennials growing in little troughs among the dunes like Algodones Dunes sunflower (Helianthus niveus ssp. tephrodes), giant Spanish needle (Polafioxia arida var. gigantea), Pierson’s milkvetch (Astragalus magdalenae var. piersonii), sand verbena (Abronia villosa), desert dichoria (Dicoria canescens), and plicate coldenia (Tiquilia plicata), among others.

The next section of the trip will head deeper into the wilderness from the Desert Iguana sign/parking area on Ted Kipf Road to get into the microphyll woodlands dominated by desert trees in family Fabaceae like ironwood (Olneya tesota), palo verde (Parkinsonia florida), and mesquites (Prosopsis spp.). It’s here that the color should really come to life, with opportunistic flowering (hopefully) in an early bloom after the December rains. The woodlands are great for finding apricot mallow (Spaeralcea ambigu), blazingstars (Mentzelia spp.), cryptantha, desert star vine (Brandegea bigelovii), desert marigolds (Baileya spp.), buckwheats (Eriogonum spp.), and many others. We’ll break for lunch and perform a few iNat uploads before heading back to the vehicles.

January is just at the start of the season for Imperial County trips and it can be cold, so expect to wear a coat and hat, especially in the dunes where the wind can be relentless. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and a change into light fully covering clothes if the temps heat up over the day. Tall boots that keep out sand are highly recommended.

If driving, make sure your vehicle can handle sand and gravel on rutted dirt roads. 4X4 and all-wheel drive is not necessary (unless there's a flood), but do expect to get the car dirty on Ted Kipf Road. If an advisory is up for Ted Kipf Road, we'll carpool from the ranger station.

CARPOOL:
I will offer carpool out of San Diego in my vehicle, which seats up to three other people. Be prepared to drive if spaces fill up. Look for a black Toyota Tundra or Dark Grey RAV4, at Fashion Valley Mall Transit Center parking area nearest Fashion Valley Rd (west end of the mall) from 7:15 to 7:30 am. Parking at the Transit Center parking lot is free for 24 hrs (park in the diagonal spaces only) and is patrolled by security. That being said, the same risks apply there as to regular street parking. Donations for gas are welcome, but not required. ($20 is suggested to cover gas). I expect to return to San Diego around 5 pm.

DIRECTIONS:
Meet at the Imperial San Dunes Cahuilla Ranger Station, 4500 Gecko Road, Brawley CA. From San Diego, take I-8 east to El Centro, exit 111 North, then take SR-78 east to Dunes. From North County SD/Riv: Head to Warner Springs turning on S-2 to San Felipe and then take SR-78, or from Santa Ysabel, take 78 East.

~ Justin Daniel, Field Trip Chair

Photo from https://www.blm.gov/visit/north-algodones-dunes-wilderness website.
7th Annual Native Garden Tour
The Artful California Native Garden
April 4 & 5, 2020

CNPS San Diego Chapter is pleased to announce the “The Artful California Native Garden” Tour for the weekend of April 4 & 5, 2020 that will focus on inland native gardens of San Diego East County. This year’s garden tour will have several education events and will highlight artists in select gardens. Tickets will go on sale in mid-February. Keep your eyes open for our Early Bird ticket sales.

Old Town Landscape

No work party is scheduled at the Old Town Landscape in January. For info, contact Peter or Kay at OldTownLandscape@cnpssd.org

Conservation Committee

January 7. We meet the first Tuesday of every month, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Email conservation@cnpssd.org for details. If you are interested in this kind of work, you are very, very welcome, as we always need more volunteers. We are happy to train you, too, and we have developed training materials. We know of a project that needs our involvement, we will also welcome you. Our goal is to protect California’s native plants, and where they are threatened, whether it is by development or climate change, we speak up and advocate for them.

Conservation Column

Conservation and Politics to Start 2020

Happy New Year! It’s going to be a busy spring. Here’s what’s going on.

CalFire’s Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP)

The lovely, thoughtful people at the Board of Forestry issued the final EIR for the VTP the day before Thanksgiving, presumably so that it would be certified by the Board of Forestry at their December 11 meeting, presumably (again) so that anyone contemplating litigating it would have to work through the holidays, since you’ve got 30 days to sue on an EIR once it has been certified. Ruining holidays is normal behavior for the VTP campaign, and I’ve lost track of how many I’ve had trashed by them pulling stunts like this.

Oddly enough, the flood of negative testimony and lengthy letters that reached the Board of Forestry caused them to put the VTP decision on hold until the end of the year. That was kind of them. Presumably they’ll pass it as the legislature requires them to do.

After that some environmental organization may well file suit. Considering that the CEQA problems get much worse if the VTP is passed (basically, dozens of poorly documented, hard-to-fight projects every year hereafter), I strongly urge you to donate to any group that is fighting this. Unfortunately, I can’t be less cryptic than that right now.

No on Newland Sierra in the March 3 Election

This shouldn’t be a surprise, since CNPS is a co-litigant against the Newland Sierra project. The critical point here is to remember to vote NO on Newland Sierra, since the referendum is phrased to ask voters to approve the project.
that the County Board of Supervisors put on the ballot. CNPS recommends YES on SOS (see below), NO on Newland.

Here’s the scoop. First, the referendum (Measure B on the March 3, 2020 ballot) was radically amended by the County Supervisors on November 19 to read as follows: “Shall the San Diego County General Plan Amendment PDS2015-GPA-15-001, approved by the Board of Supervisors for the development of the Newland Sierra Project, be approved? The existing General Plan allows 99 homes and up to 2,000,000 square feet of commercial with open space. General Plan Amendment PDS2015-GPA-15-001 would authorize up to 2,199 homes and 1,777,684 square feet of commercial. The approved Newland Sierra Project includes a planned community of 2,135 homes, a school site, 81,000 square feet of retail, 36 acres of parks and 1,209 acres of open space.”

Three of the Supervisors (Gaspar, Desmond, and Cox) thought this language clarified what the measure was about. I happened to disagree, but it’s hard to argue with three people who are so radically pro-development.

In any case, I urge you to vote NO. In case you haven’t gotten past the holiday political discussions with family, the reasons are as follows:

- On CNPS side, it does cause damage to native plants, including several sensitive species. It also blocks the wildlife corridor up the west side of the I-15, which will become increasingly important for plants migrating to deal with climate change (migrating in the sense of their seeds being borne by animals in the corridor). While the project site hasn’t burned in a while, if it does burn, getting everyone out safely will be quite challenging, as the exits are going to jam fast. Also, since there’s little local employment, every resident will have to drive to work, which will emit greenhouse gases.

- On the planning side, there are numerous problems. First off, there’s no affordable housing, because it’s difficult to build inexpensive buildings in a steep-sided canyon. It may actually decrease affordable housing in the area, since the proposed expanded access to the I-15 might well destroy an existing trailer park where people of low incomes currently live. Speaking of the I-15, the Newland development would jam the highway at Deer Springs Road, but that part of the project got piecemealed off (possibly illegally) as a separate CalTrans project that’s kind of slipping along under the radar right now.

I could go on, but the general point is that the General Plan has a lot of affordable housing slated. Newland Sierra is a General Plan Amendment to put in a lot of high-end housing. I’d suggest simply voting against Newland Sierra to tell the County to follow its own general plan and build more affordable housing.

Save Our San Diego (SOS) will be Measure A on March 3

The measure you will be asked to vote on (and I hope gets approved) is “Shall this Initiative be adopted for the purpose of amending the San Diego County General Plan to require voter approval for General Plan amendments that increase residential density for property designated by the General Plan as Semi-Rural or Rural?” This will be Measure A on the March 3, 2020 ballot.

That’s pretty straightforward. Supervisor Desmond had the interesting idea that this was actually confusing. He wanted something like the following motion approved at the December 11 meeting, for a last-second update to the voting guide: “Shall this initiative amending the San Diego County General Plan to require a countywide vote, in addition to the current county approval process, when any General Plan amendment seeks to add 6 or more homes in rural or semi-rural areas, effective through 2038, excluding purely non-residential developments and developments in villages, located in areas such as Julian, Ramona and Alpine; to prohibit density transfers from higher to lower density parcels; and, to prohibit new Specific Plans through 2038, be adopted?”

Isn’t that special? I mean, two semicolons in 80 words definitely improves readability. I could continue with the snark for quite some time, because I was preparing to troop down and speak against it. Fortunately for us all, Supervisor Semicolon pulled it the day before the meeting, so we get to vote on the relatively straightforward original version.

SOS is a citizen’s initiative that’s run by some really passionate people who are not among the super-rich. They’re up against a well-funded disinformation campaign by the developers, and they’re not stopping at inserting semicolons. If you’re looking for worthy causes, donating to help pass Measure A (SOS, see above) is definitely one of them.

Lilac Hills Ranch, Otay Village 13, and Harvest Hills

I expect the County Supervisors to vote on Lilac Hills Ranch and Otay Village 13 before March 3, for the simple reason that, if they wait until after March 3, these General Plan Amendments may well have to go to a vote of the people, if Measure A passes.

Lilac Hills Ranch was voted down back in 2016 (Measure B) when the developer tried to get it past the voters. In fact, here are the vote totals:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District 1</td>
<td>44.74%</td>
<td>55.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>35.54%</td>
<td>64.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 3</td>
<td>35.21%</td>
<td>64.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District 4</td>
<td>34.51%</td>
<td>65.49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>District 5</td>
<td>34.04%</td>
<td>65.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>36.46%</td>
<td>63.54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Note how the conservative District 5 (currently Desmond’s district, formerly Horn’s), where Lilac Hills Ranch is located, had the lowest vote for it?

The reason I’m publishing these stats is that, when it comes up in front of the supervisors, I’m going to ask everyone who can to send in a message quoting these stats, and to ask the supervisors to follow the will of their constituents and turn this down. It’s only through bureaucratic finagling that the developer gets a second shot at this project, and the supervisors really should respect the bipartisan will of the people on this one and turn it down. Let them know that.

As for Otay Ranch Village 13, it’s got most of the same problems as Otay Ranch Village 14. The biggest problem isn’t about plants, it’s about the very rare Quino Checkerspot butterfly. The biggest population is apparently in the Village 13/14 area, so if these two get developed, it’s likely that the Quino Checkerspot will go extinct. That’s not directly a CNPS issue, but it is a major conservation issue that we need to be aware of.

Harvest Hills in Escondido is the rebranded Safari Highlands, without major changes. The Mayor of Escondido, after initially opposing the project, now seems to be sliding towards approving it sometime this spring.

If you’re a resident of Escondido, please speak up and let your City Council know how you feel about this. If you happen to be active with the San Diego Zoo, you’ve got a role too. Harvest Hills is right uphill to the north of the Safari Park. Now’s a good time to gently put pressure on the Zoo management to be more vocal in their opposition to this mess. The project will cause them problems, and with their End Extinction campaign, they need to speak up about local problems, like this project on their border.

Happy 2020 all. If you’ve been active in conservation, THANK YOU!

~ Frank Landis, Conservation Chair

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly

Habitat: Open margins of scrub where dominant plant species include California sagebrush (Artemisia californica), chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), and non-native/native grasslands.

Feeding: The larvae (caterpillars) live on and eat primarily California plantain (Plantago erecta), however, they may also use purple owl’s clover (Castilleja exserta), dense flower owl’s clover (Castilleja densiflora), Coulter’s snapdragon (Antirrhinum coulterianum), or rigid bird’s beak (Cordylanthus rigidus), when available.

Adults feed on nectar from California goldfields (Lasthenia californica), fringed linanthus (Linanthus dianthiflorus), popcorn flower (Cryptantha and Plagiobothrys spp.), and fiddleneck (Amsickia spp).

~ Editor’s note

Fringed linanthus (Linanthus dianthiflorus).
Photo by Geoff Burleigh.

Geoff Burleigh (left) was a resident of the San Fernando Valley from 1933 and worked for Pacific Telephone for 41 years. He died in February 2006. He was a persistent and diligent photographer and CNPS field trip leader; his main “focus” was the genus Calochortus.
Steve Hartman of CNPS and Geoff botanized together, and Steve wanted to ensure that Geoff’s photos would exist into perpetuity. To that end, he scanned Geoff’s slides and then contacted Calflora to upload over 8,800 of Geoff’s photos into the Calflora database. Geoff assigned plant species names to his slides; he also assigned locations descriptions to his photos which Calflora converted to point locations.
Editor: From time to time I hope to feature Geoff’s photos in our newsletter.
San Diego Audubon Society

2020 San Diego Bird Festival
February 26 to March 1, 2020
Marina Village Conference Center

For the festival brochure, please contact Jen Hajj at hajj@sandiegoaudubon.org with the subject line “Please send a festival brochure to this address.” Registration is open. The BEST way to get the programs you want is to register online. Mailed-in registration forms may experience a short lag in processing.

California Society for Ecological Restoration (SERCAL) Conference

April 29 – May 1, 2020; http://www.sercal.org/

Habitat restoration experts across California are gathering to share their experiences and knowledge on a gamut of restoration activities happening in our backyards. From large-scale dam removals to small-scale community restoration, collective efforts are helping California landscapes regain connectivity and ecosystem function, while advancing the science, art, and practice of ecological restoration in a rapidly changing state.

The 27th Annual SERCAL conference will be held at Palo Corona Regional Park & Discovery Center in Carmel Valley (Monterey). The annual conference provides a congenial environment for professionals, students, and enthusiasts to invigorate their work through technical presentations, poster presentations, fieldtrips, and sponsorships.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter.

Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is, January 10 for the February newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpssd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar

January 2020

1/7: Conservation Committee Mtg, p.4
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1/25: Winter Workshop, p.1
1/26: Algodones Dunes Day Trip, p.3
January 2020 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
https://www.cnps.org/membership

___ Student/Limited Income $25; ___ Individual $50; ___ Plant Lover $120; ___ Supporter $500; ___ Patron $1,000;
___ Benefactor $2,500; ___ Perennial Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at $5/mo provide much needed predictable
income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see
https://www.cnps.org/membership to sign up for this membership level.

Name(s): _________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________
Phone: __________________________ e-mail: _______________________________

Mail check payable to “CNPS” and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.