



California Native Plant Society
Progress Report
1998-99



Who We Are, What We Do

The California Native Plant Society works to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and preserve them in their natural habitat. The foundation of our work is effective scientific research to boost understanding of the biology of ecosystems throughout California. Well-supported data help determine areas targeted as conservation priorities.

We offer agencies and lawmakers essential botanical information as they develop plans and policies for management of California's public and private lands. We work with other environmental organizations and research institutions to share information and coordinate conservation efforts.

The Society focuses on native plant issues that are too often overlooked, including control of pest plants, improving grazing practices, and gauging the health of unique plant communities and rare plant species. Without the Society's expertise, these important issues would be less constructively addressed and perhaps neglected altogether.

The Society's three major program areas – **Plant Science, Conservation Advocacy, and Education** – continue to expand, thanks to the efforts of a small dedicated staff and hundreds of volunteers at the state level and in 31 local chapters.

Giant Larkspur (Delphinium glaucum) by Kristin Jakob



The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education and conservation.



California Native Plant Society
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A Sense of Place and Beauty for Future Generations

The native plants of California are unlike any others in the world. From the richly colored expanses of spring wildflowers in the desert to groves of Monterey cypress on the coast, California's wild gardens are immensely diverse and awe-inspiring in their beauty. They define the landscape and offer Californians a sense of place and stability.

The California Native Plant Society works to protect California's native plant heritage and preserve it for future generations. Our work comes at a most critical time. Urban and agricultural growth, the spread of non-native weeds, unsustainable timber and grazing practices, and inadequate land use planning by county and regional governments all contribute to a relentless decline in California's native plant diversity.

To reverse this trend, CNPS assumes a pivotal role among California conservation organizations, promoting sound plant science as the backbone of effective ecosystem protection. We work closely with decision-makers, scientists, and regional planners to advocate well-informed, environmentally friendly policies, regulations, and land management practices. Our educational programs teach adults and children why California's plants are a special treasure.

The major strides described in this report barely scratch the surface of our work. We have made a good start, but much hard work remains if we are to save California's unique wild gardens.

Allen Barnes
Executive Director

Other Key Activities in Plant Science Programs in 1998-99

- Researched and evaluated more than 2,000 field survey reports, herbarium records, and other research materials, as part of our work on the sixth edition of the *Inventory*.
- Refined two sampling methods that allow chapter volunteers to more efficiently describe plant communities.
- Incorporated CNPS data into maps showing vegetation distribution in Yosemite and Joshua Tree National Parks, the Mojave Desert, and Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Helped spearhead a project in Joshua Tree National Park to consolidate trails for rock climbers and reclaim unnecessary trails.
- Surveyed rare plant species on the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County, as part of a long-term effort to stop encroachment by off-highway vehicles.

Plant Science Programs

Leading in Scientific Integrity

Our reputation for scientific integrity is built on the Society's Plant Science programs. Program staff collect, analyze, and interpret data on the distribution, ecology, and conservation status of California's native plants, gathered by professional and volunteer botanists. For more than 30 years, we have shared these data with public agencies and environmental groups as a foundation for crafting appropriate conservation strategies.

An important component of the Plant Science program is the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*. Now in its fifth edition, the *Inventory* tracks the status of more than 1,200 California plant species, providing up-to-date information to a wide range of stakeholders in California.

Conservationists rely on the *Inventory* to prepare testimony for public forums and lawsuits. Without this information, decision makers would be less aware of important plants and habitats needing protection. For example, agencies consult the *Inventory* to determine what species may be affected by proposed development projects and to ensure that such projects are in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. Resource managers use the *Inventory* to help select and manage preserves for species of concern.

Work on the second edition of CNPS' other major scientific book, *A Manual of California Vegetation*, is now underway. The first edition of the *Manual* is already playing a key role in helping conservationists and land use planners shift their focus to a broader habitat-based approach toward plant conservation.

Data collected on CNPS field surveys continue to bolster a number of conservation efforts. For example, in 1998 we located 16 rare plant species on grazing lands in the Mojave Desert managed by the Bureau of Land Management. These findings will support grazing plans that minimize impacts of livestock on native desert plants.



Volunteers use new CNPS vegetation sampling technique at Saddlebag Lake.
Photo by Todd Keeler-Wolf.

Conservation Advocacy

Promoting Plant-Friendly Policies

The Society's Conservation Advocacy programs promote scientifically-based public policies, regulations, and land management practices that protect native vegetation. Our staff works closely with agencies that manage more than 48 million acres of public land in California – about half of the state's land area. CNPS reviews agency proposals for grazing, logging, prescribed fires, and herbicide application. With technical support from our conservation staff, local chapters and volunteers actively monitor local projects for potential ecological threats.

In 1998-99, our recommendations helped shape land management practices in public lands throughout California. In the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, our conservation staff and volunteers persuaded federal officials to address sensitive plant issues in land management plans for nearly 10 million acres of public lands. We are now working with these agencies to write plant protection measures into these plans. In the Sequoia National Forest, we worked to restrict herbicide use in habitat of rare *Calochortus* species.

Conservation staff work in the legislative arena to persuade decision makers at all levels – local, state, and federal – to enact and implement policies that protect native vegetation. In 1998, we rallied 34 environmental groups to collectively urge state legislators to adopt more rigorous standards for Natural Communities Conservation Plans, which are strategies to protect critical local habitats on a regional, long-term scale. Without this effort, most legislators would not have considered strengthening these strategies.

As part of our advocacy work, the Society has and will continue to engage in litigation, generally along with other environmental groups, when and where counties, municipalities, and state and federal agencies fail to follow environmental laws. One 1998 suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service led to the addition of several plant species to the federal endangered species list. Another suit filed against the City of San Jose led to a settlement requiring a developer to set aside habitat for a population of an endangered plant species. Without the lawsuit and resulting settlement, the proposed development could have eradicated that plant population.



CNPS supports the use of ecologically appropriate prescribed burning to return normal fire regimes to fire-adapted ecosystems. Photo by Carol Rice.

Other Key Activities in Conservation Advocacy Programs in 1998-99

- Provided data to support petitions to list several rare and threatened plants under the California Endangered Species Act.
- Spearheaded the Equal Protection for Plants Campaign.
- Helped save an important United States Department of Agriculture bio-control research program.
- Published handbooks to help agencies and conservation groups use sound science in regional planning.
- Evaluated dozens of legislative bills and policies affecting native plants.
- Helped the U.S. Bureau of Land Management develop standards and guidelines for rangeland health.

Other Key Activities in Education in 1998-99

- Published several books including *Plant Life in the World's Mediterranean Climates, Ecology and Restoration of Northern California Coastal Dunes, and Plants of the Tahoe Basin*.
- Reprinted our best-selling Spring Wildflowers poster.
- Distributed educational grants to eight student researchers.
- Published a special issue of *Fremontia* on California's weeds.
- Participated in state and national committees developing science curricula for public schools.
- Increased our activity in developing curriculum for California's public schools, including a "Kids in Gardens" workshop to help teachers integrate native plants and gardening into their class programs.
- Led more than 325 local chapter field trips for more than 5,000 people.
- Started several local programs that allow school-children to participate in habitat restoration.

Education

Nurturing a New Generation of Conservationists

The Society wants native plants and their natural habitats to be enjoyed and recognized as essential to human well-being. To do this, we have a wide array of education and outreach programs to help youth and adults explore and better understand biological principles that link plants and animals within ecosystems, and reveal the inherent beauty and value of California's native plants.

Many local chapters have recently expanded our popular school garden program, where school children grow their own native plant gardens and learn about plant conservation. Volunteers in our Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter worked with local teachers to create *Southern California Native Plants for School Gardens*, a manual to help teachers establish school gardens. Teachers throughout Southern California are now using the manual to integrate the gardens into their natural science curriculum.



CNPS members Connie Rutherford and her son Tyler enjoy wildflowers in the Panamint Valley. Photo courtesy of Connie Rutherford.

In a remarkable illustration of the power of educating children, Sacramento Chapter volunteers worked with a local fifth grade class to "adopt" vernal pools threatened by gravel mining and development. These children learned about environmental advocacy firsthand by studying the plants in the pools and then raising money to protect the area from off-road vehicles. This project, which has gained recognition from state school officials, is a model the Society hopes to apply to other schools in California.

Our local Chapters have organized many other educational programs, including countless nature education walks and field trips, community gardens, local weed eradication groups, and workshops and symposia on plant restoration. These activities have generated enormous growth in our volunteer base, helping the Society's local activities gain momentum.

The Local Chapters

Uniting Communities to Protect Local Treasures

CNPS has 31 Chapters that promote our mission on the local level. Chapters are staffed entirely by volunteers who contribute tens of thousands of hours each year.

Restoration work has been particularly exciting in the past two years. Chapter volunteers planted native species, rebuilt damaged habitats, and conducted a wide range of other restoration activities in counties throughout the state. In San Francisco, Yerba Buena Chapter volunteers launched a program that provides restoration work opportunities for inner-city residents, allowing many to connect with their natural surroundings for the first time. Our North Coast Chapter has helped to preserve and restore unique coastal dunes near Eureka.

In Nevada County, Redbud Chapter volunteers persuaded timber companies not to log a region harboring the southernmost population of the unique insect-eating California pitcher plant.

Chapters across the state, including Kern, South Coast, and San Diego, have played key roles in ensuring that agencies incorporated local native plant concerns in regional habitat and species conservation programs. To back up these conservation efforts with hard data, chapters throughout the state regularly monitor populations of rare plants in their respective areas.



*Fifth grade students learn about the inhabitants of vernal pools in Mather Field, Sacramento County.
Photo by Ken Davis.*

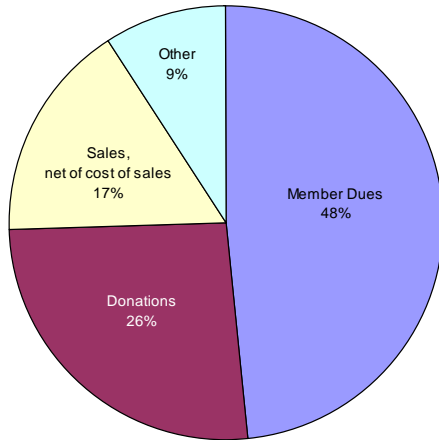
Other Key Activities in Local Chapters in 1998-99

- The East Bay Chapter held the state's largest sale of California native plants for the 32nd year in a row.
- The Napa Chapter expanded its local community garden, which is visited by plant enthusiasts from around the world.
- The San Diego Chapter conducted a symposium on Coastal Sage Scrub restoration attended by hundreds of individuals representing diverse interests.
- The Kern Chapter started a high school Heritage Tree program, in which students raise seedlings of historically significant local trees.
- The Mount Lassen Chapter led workshops teaching plant identification.
- The Marin Chapter's nature walk program provided grade-school children with an opportunity to earn "Junior Botanist" certificates for identifying native plants.
- The Yerba Buena Chapter continued its weekly "weed bashing parties" throughout the Bay Area.
- The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter integrated restoration work with school ecology programs.

Financial Overview

Year Ended December 31, 1998

1998 SUPPORT AND REVENUE



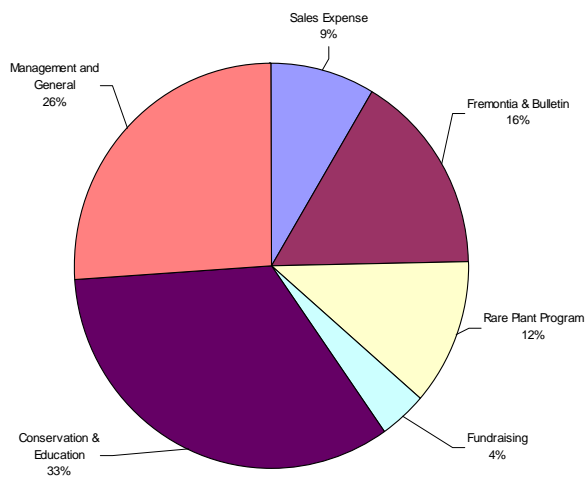
SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Member dues	\$	276,562
Donations	\$	150,515
Sales, net of cost of sales	\$	93,988
Other	\$	52,397
Total support and revenue	\$	573,462

EXPENSES

Sales Expense	\$	50,136
Fremontia & Bulletin	\$	92,316
Rare Plant Program	\$	66,748
Fundraising	\$	22,738
Conservation & Education	\$	192,539
Management & General	\$	149,501
Total expenses	\$	573,978

1998 EXPENDITURES



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Assets	\$	776,601
Total Liabilities	\$	(219,612)
Total Net Assets	\$	556,989

Breakdown of Total Net Assets:

Unrestricted	\$	486,664
Temporarily Restricted	\$	45,626
Permanently Restricted	\$	24,699

Audited Financial Statements are available upon request.

Note: State budget supports all chapters and does not include chapter income or expenses.

CNPS Executive Council Members - 1999

President

Jacob Sigg

V.P. for Administration

Roy West

V.P. for Finance

Steve Hartman

V.P. for Conservation

David Chipping

V.P. for Rare Plants

Ann Dennis

V.P. for Vegetation

Deborah Hillyard

V.P. for Education

Carol Baird

V.P. for Education

Lorrae Fuentes

V.P. for Publications

Joyce Hawley

V.P. for Legislation

Sue Britting

V.P. for Development

Joan Stewart

V.P. for Chapter Relations

Bertha McKinley

Recording Secretary

Dirk Walters

Past President

Lori Hubbart

Directors-at-Large

Jim Bishop

Cindy Burrascano

Carolyn Curtis

Ellen Cypher

John Pitt

Mona Robison