



Bulletin

Contribute to a New Vision for the Conservation Program

BY ILEENE ANDERSON

The Conservation Program is halfway through the conservation visioning meetings being convened throughout California. Program volunteers and staff meet to listen to the views of CNPS members and other interested folks regarding the most pressing conservation needs and strategic directions for the conservation program and how CNPS should proceed to address these needs. Part of the impetus for these meetings is a potential restructuring of the program at the State level, in light of the former Senior Land Management Analyst, Emily Roberson's having moved on to the Center for Biological Diversity and the



Lilac sunbonnets bloomed in profusion this year. Photo: I. Anderson.

CONSERVATION VISIONING MEETINGS

Open to the membership and other interested folks

July 7

10:30 am–4:00 pm
Santa Clara Valley CNPS
Office, Raptor Room
3921 E. Bayshore Boulevard
Palo Alto, CA 94303



July 23

10:30 am–4:00 pm
Hopland Research and Extension Center
4070 University Road
Hopland, CA 95443

For more information, see
<http://www.cnps.org/programs/conservation/meetings.htm>

—Jennifer Kalt,
State Forest Issues Coordinator
jkalt@asis.com

impending retirement of the current Conservation Director, David Chipping, at the end of the year. The program has held two meetings so far, one in Southern California in January, and a second in the Sacramento area in March. Two more are slated in July (see box at left). To date these meetings have been inspiring, with a breadth of viewpoints, ideas, and great suggestions. The meetings provide an exciting opportunity to meet with other plant conservation activists. Following the state-wide meetings, a final version of the conservation vision will be composed to guide the CNPS Conservation Program. This plan will be presented at the September 2005 Conservation Conference and Chapter Council meeting, which is also open to the membership (see page 8).

The conservation visioning meetings are open to all interested folks. If you plan to attend, RSVP so that we can provide adequate space and refreshments. Check out the general agenda for the meetings, as well as meeting

notes from previous meetings, at <http://www.cnps.org/programs/conservation/meetings.htm>.

—Ileene Anderson is Senior Analyst and Southern California Botanist for CNPS



A Note from the Executive Director You Volunteered 80,000 Hours

And...We're in Color!

You are holding in your hands the very first CNPS *Bulletin* ever printed in full color. It's brought to you courtesy of a generous member, who prefers to remain anonymous. Upon hearing my plan to showcase the fantastic photos submitted from chapter-sponsored desert field trips this spring, he offered to donate the amount over usual printing costs, and turned the dream of many members into a reality. At this point, it is a one-time-only experiment. Let me know what you think.

LIFEBLOOD OF CNPS

Almost all of our 9,800 members are affiliated with one of our chapters, which are the lifeblood of CNPS. Each of the 32 chapters has the same foundation: a core group of committed volunteers, a series of monthly meetings with a speaker, weekend field trips, an annual plant sale, and a newsletter.

But each chapter has also developed a dis-

tinct personality, with unique projects and programs, as can be seen from a reading of the 2004 Chapter Annual Activity Report and recent issues of *Fremontia*. Many chapters maintain websites that are linked with the CNPS web site (http://www.cnps.org/chapters/chapter_map.htm). Chapters organize annual garden tours, maintain native plant nurseries, sponsor overnight botanical expeditions, publish books, monitor rare plants, and fund scholarship programs. A few chapters employ staff to coordinate volunteers on land stewardship projects, native plant nurseries, and conservation programs. Read chapter profiles in each issue of this year's *Fremontia*.

The chapters remain a solid base of CNPS volunteers. During 2004, 29 chapters reported 80,000 volunteer hours! That's the equivalent of 40 full-time workers. Even the smallest chapters with fewer than 40 members reported hundreds of volunteer hours. And, it appears that volunteer hours are probably under- rather than over-estimated. This number has been consistent for at least the past couple of years.

A DEMOCRATIC (SMALL-D) ORGANIZATION

By design, CNPS is a democratic, from the bottom up, organization. The power lies in the chapters and is exercised through the Chapter Council, which provides direction and connects the chapters to the state organization.

The Chapter Council has several core functions: to maintain strong relations between the chapters and the state Board of Directors; to fulfill basic governance responsibilities related to electing and evaluating the Board and changing the bylaws; and to set the strategic vision, mission, and goals of the organization and to set policy to put those into effect. The Board hires the Executive Director to manage day-to-day operation, staff and programs.

Please make a point of sharing your ideas with your Council Delegate, especially if you are not able to attend Chapter Council meetings this year. CNPS leadership begins with members and chapters. I speak for all staff in welcoming your ideas and recommendations. 🌱

—Pamela C. Muick, Ph.D, Executive Director, pmuick@cnps.org

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Pamela C. Muick, Executive Director

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Chapter Council Reviews Strategic Plan Priorities for action

BY SUE BRITTING

As happens about every four years, review of the CNPS Strategic Plan is now under way. At the March Chapter Council meeting, we focused our discussions on the mission and vision statements of the strategic plan, including views of members, whose suggestions and comments can be viewed at the CNPS website.

Overall, people were mostly satisfied with the thrust of the existing mission and vision statements. Desired changes reflected a desire to tune-up and refine the wording rather than change any fundamental direction. The council established two committees to consider the suggestions and to propose language changes for consideration by the Chapter Council at the June meeting, as follows:

Mission Committee, to consist of David Magney (Channel Islands Chapter) and Julie Evens (CNPS vegetation staff). Vision Committee, composed of David Chipping (San Luis Obispo Chapter), Betsey Landis (LA/Santa Monica Chapter), Dave Sundstrom (Orange County Chapter), and Brad Jenkins (Orange County Chapter).

At the meeting, the council members also discussed the goals of the strategic plan. Certainly, we could agree that we had accomplished many good things in the past four years, but it was less clear how those accomplishments were linked to the goals we had formulated for this strategic plan in

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Desert Field Trip Takes CNPSers to Granite Mountains

Wildflowers and a 'reptile trifecta'

BY STEVE HARTMAN

Over the past decade, the annual CNPS desert field trip has taken us to many places, but this was the first time we could plan on having a roof over our heads. So despite the forecasts of a week of rain, we weren't alarmed at the cold and windy conditions that greeted us when we arrived at Norris Camp (named after Kenneth S. Norris, distinguished zoologist and founding father of the UC Natural Reserve System). This rustic facility is funky but very practical, with lights and a refrigerator powered by solar panels, various bunk rooms, propane stoves, and food storage lockers in a kitchen fully stocked with pots and pans and utensils.

Bright and early the first morning, Jim André, director of the nearly 9,000-acre Jack and Marilyn Sweeney Granite Mountains Desert Research Center, arrived and led us on an all-day driving trip with four stops. We parked on the east side of Kelbaker Road just south of Interstate 40 and walked to a wash with smoke tree (*Psoralea argophylla*), catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggii*), blad-

derpod (*Isomeris arborea*), and with many annuals. As we walked up rocky washlets leading to a sheer cliff, we encountered different species, including a variety of cacti. A small locoweed, *Astragalus nuttallianus*, covered the ground and made it look green when viewed from a distance (although a mix of native and non-native grasses could be found there as well). We saw 110 plant species in about two hours. And we scored a reptile tri-



At 5700 feet in the Granite Mountains, CNPSers surround a rare manzanita shrub. Photo: Ilene Anderson



CNPS desert enthusiasts enjoy a spectacular spring. Photo: Rolf Muerter

fecta: We saw a Mojave green rattlesnake, a horned lizard, and a desert tortoise.

After lunch in the shade of athel trees (*Tamaria aphylla*) in Cadiz, we drove east to desert pavement just south of the Chambless rock collecting area at the base of the Trilobite Wilderness of the Marble Mountains. Among the species we saw were *Phacelia neglecta* (prior to this year only four locations were known in the East Mojave, now more than 100 locations there have been recognized), lilac sunbonnet (*Langloisia setosissima* ssp. *punctata*), *Tiquilia nuttallii* (an annual), thread plant (*Nemacladus glanduliferus*), and star flower (*Monoptilon belloides*).

As the shadows lengthened, we drove back to Kelbaker Road and stopped just north of Highway 66 and walked west to some limestone

hills just north of a mine. This area featured multiple species in certain genera, including *Pectocarya heterocarpa*, *P. platycarpa*, and

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Contribute to Conservation

2005 has been a glorious year for plant enthusiasts throughout the state. The spectacular blooms in the deserts, vernal pools, foothills, and mountain meadows helped to remind us all why CNPS is passionately dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of California's native flora.

When remembering your wondrous wildflower journeys of this past spring, also remember that CNPS spends significant staff and volunteer time trying to preserve, protect, maintain and enhance many of the places we all enjoy.

Please consider making an extra donation to CNPS this year to commemorate the Spring of 2005 and contribute to our conservation efforts. 🌱

—Carol W. Witham
CNPS President

Desert Field Trip to Granite Mountains

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A close-up of desert dandelion flowers. Photo: Steve Hartman

P. recurvata; *Cryptantha angustifolia*, *C. barbigerata*, *C. dumetorum*, *C. maritima*, and *C. nevadensis*; *Chaenactis carphoclinia*, *C. fremontii*, and *C. stevioides*; *Camissonia brevipes*, *C. claviformis*, and *C. refracta*; and *Chorizanthe brevicornu*, *C. corrugata*, and *C. rigida*. In a shady spot among the rocks we found the hairy fern *Cheilanthes parryi*. We encountered new aster species *Tricophilium incisum*, *Prenanthebella exigua*, and *Senecio mohavensis*.

Tuesday, with a storm predicted, we drove east to the Dead Mountains, where we were rewarded with 80-degree weather and bountiful flowers, but the brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) was past its prime. The Colorado River was visible from the Deads, as were nearby Laughlin, Nevada, and Needles, California. We needed high clearance and four-wheel drive for our

drive up the rocky and sandy cherry-stem access into the heart of the Dead Mountains wilderness from the east side. We hiked around, up a rocky hill, and then back down through a splendid little wash where, on the north side of rocks and under shade, we found *Parietaria hespera* var. *hespera*, commonly called pellitory, a non-stinging member of the nettle family. We also found *Pterostegia drymarioides* (another shade lover), bristly langloisia (*Langloisia setosissima* ssp. *setosissima*), and ghost flower (*Mohavea confertiflora*).



Ghost flower was abundant in the Dead Mountains. Photo: John Game

As dusk approached, we drove to the west side of the Dead Mountains, parked along Interstate 95, crossed the railroad tracks, and hiked up a west-facing wash, where we saw both male and female plants of *Galium stellatum* var. *eremicum*. As the wash got narrower and rockier, we encountered many, many harvester spiders with brownish bodies and

white dots on their legs. They used six legs for walking and their other pair as feelers.

Despite warnings all week of a huge storm, the next morning was windy (well, it was always windy at Norris Camp) and partly cloudy, but not rainy (although it had rained the night before). Jim André arrived with a guest, Mike Vasey of San Francisco State University, who had come to see a unique manzanita. Starting at 3,700 ft., we hiked 1,500 ft. up the Al A. Allanson trail to a wonderful overlook, then 300 ft. down, then 300 ft. up, and along the way we found some interesting higher-elevation plants, including the pancake prickly-pear (*Opuntia chlorotica*), Mojave prickly-pear (*Opuntia erinacea*), silver wormwood (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), turpentine-brush (*Ericameria laricifolia*), silk tassel bush (*Garrya flavescens*), striped horsebrush (*Tetradymia argyraea*), and even desert agave (*Agave deserti*). When we had climbed to nearly 5,300 ft., Mike was ecstatic when we found the rounded manzanita shrub in full flower. We even found old fruits in the litter below the plant. The guess is that it is most likely a range extension of *Arctostaphylos parryana* ssp. *deserticum* recently described from western Borrego Palm Canyon. Then we went up higher to look for more manzanita plants, but found none. But we did get a good workout.

One of the benefits of Norris Camp was that it provided a meeting place after dark; had we been camping during this week, the nights would have been windy and cold, and we would have eaten quickly and then retreated to our tents or cars. But, instead, after dinner we could all gather around the large table in the dining room. Some nights we had a sing-along with ukulele and guitar, and one night we added a percussion section using kitchen utensils.

Our merry group grew to include Ileene Anderson (CNPS Southern California regional botanist), Rolf Muerter (Riverside – San Bernardino chapter webmaster and a guitarist), Stephen Ingram (Bristlecone chapter past president and a photographer), David Magney (CNPS

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past president, Channel Islands chapter, and a botanist) and Nancy Breslin (a schoolteacher). Also present were Dave Tibor (former CNPS rare plant botanist, now working for the California Department of Fish and Game), Jay Sullivan (of the Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter), Janell Hillman (of the Santa Cruz chapter and past CNPS director) and three of her friends, Linda Brodman, Dylan Neubauer, and Albie Miles.

On Thursday we drove east along I-40 to explore the Clipper Mountains, first from the north (via a mine road accessed from Essex Road north of I-40), where we spent the morning “botanizing.” Then we drove south on Essex Road, but we had to stop because we discovered a multi-acre area where desert lilies (*Hespercallis undulate*) abound: thousands of flower



Desert five-spot brightens the desert with its magenta markings. Photo: Ileene Anderson

stalks poking-up through the sand, with wavy leaves hugging the earth. Although only a few were blooming, no doubt it would be an incredible sight in a few weeks.

We spent a blissful afternoon driving and stopping along the dirt road leading to Bonanza Spring, a Bureau of Land Management tamarisk and giant reed grass eradication project. On the way to the spring we drove through a wash that was filled with color: yellow *Encelia*, white *Chaenactis*, purple *Phacelia crenulata* var. *ambigua*, and red monkeyflower (*Mimulus bigelovii*). We also ran across a very unusual sight—the rush milkweed *Asclepia subulata* putting out new growth; the new growth included ephemeral, opposite leaves that we had never seen before.

At Bonanza Spring the dominant riparian plants are arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*) and salt-grass (*Distichlis spicata*), along with some 15–30' tall hybrid willows (*Salix* sp.), and *Baccharis saratroides*. There was enough moisture to support *Juncus bufonius* and *J. mexicanus*, plus *Eleocharis* sp. There

were just a few non-natives (*Melilotus indica*, *Polypogon monspeliensis*, *Sonchus oleraceus*, *Lactuca serriola*, and a few resprouting *Arundo donax*).

Our final day was a special treat, as we met up with Jim André and Ellen Dean, curator of the UC Davis herbarium. We first stopped near

Hector Road along Highway 66, where the Pisgah lava flows are interspersed with areas of collected blow sand. While we were there, Ellen took a photo of what appeared to be the elusive lily *Androstephium breviflorum*, but we didn't have time to go back to it. We then went to a large wash

dominated by the yellow annual *Malacothrix glabrata*, also known as desert dandelion. Ellen wanted to collect desert species for the UC Davis herbarium, so while she filled the

plant press, the CNPSers helped collect two specimens each of every plant in the vicinity. The wind was blowing so the extra hands were very useful.

After the collecting, we continued to other areas looking for *Penstemon albomarginatus* (white margined leaves and petals). We didn't find it. But at the end of the day, we went back to our original Pisgah lava flow site from the morning, and followed footprints in the sand until Dave Tibor found the diminutive *Androstephium breviflorum*. All told, we found three plants, two in flower, each with one flower stalk, one bearing five flowers and one bearing seven flowers. The flower cluster reached almost 4 inches tall, and the longest leaf was 9 inches. The leaves were no wider than three-sixteenths of an inch.

What a wonderful way to end a great trip! 🌱

Steve Hartman is CNPS Treasurer, trip leader, and ukulele player

To receive a listing of the 250 plants seen by location, please contact Steve at naturebase@aol.com

Desert dandelions covered the desert washes north of Ludlow. Photo: Steve Hartman



New Vegetation Staff Will Classify Sierra Nevada Foothills Vegetation

BY ANNE KLEIN

Six new staff members, hired by CNPS in late February, will gather data on plant communities within the Sierra Nevada Foothills in a study



area that extends from Redding south to Mariposa, in the oak woodland and chaparral belt that comes up from the valley. Three crews are actively surveying vegetation until mid July using CNPS's releve and rapid assessment protocols.

foothill vegetation. The data may be used in conservation planning and management in the future. This project is funded through a contract between CNPS and the California Department of Fish and Game.



The Vegetation Program staff is also organizing chapter-based vegetation workshops within the Sierra Foothills region. The workshops are funded through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The public is welcome at the workshops. For a list of the workshops, go to http://cnps.org/programs/vegetation/PDFs/2005_CNPS_Chapter_Trainings.pdf.

A second field season is scheduled for next year. CNPs will combine the information gathered with existing data from the region to develop a broader understanding of

Photos, clockwise from lower left:

1. Greenwood Creek (BLM), Coloma, Calif., Left to right are Todd Keeler-Wolf, Jeanne Taylor, Sarah Ratay, Eric Wood, Ed Kentner, Josie Crawford, Arren Mendezona, Stella Cousins, and Mark Bibbo.



2. Left to right are Mark Bibbo, Stella Cousins, Jaime Ratchford, Jeanne Taylor, Ed Kentner, and Arren Mendezona.

3. Pine Hill (CDFG), Cameron Park, Calif. Training on CNPS releve protocol.

—Anne Klein is CNPS Vegetation Ecologist and Sierra Vegetation Manager

Strategic Plan continued from page 2

2001. The council also discussed the chapter activities and accomplishments and how they relate to the strategic plan. All agreed that the chapters do a tremendous amount to help us fulfill our mission, as can be seen in the compilation of the annual reports for all the chapters (soon to be posted on the CNPS website). To help the Chapter Council and others understand all that the state organization has accomplished in its various programs, we agreed that a report that organizes accomplishments by our goals in the strategic plan should be created. Sue Britting volunteered to take the lead on working with CNPS staff to prepare that report, which will be available prior to the June meeting.

The last topic covered at the meeting was the question of how to measure our success. We have goals that are written rather generally and could be measured in a number of ways, but how specifically do we want to meet the stated goals? To be most effective in achieving our goals with limited resources, we need to focus on those actions that will reap the greatest return. By identifying the ways we want to measure our success in achieving our goals, the Chapter Council can help the CNPS staff and volunteers prioritize the actions they take in their various programs.

Along with considering proposed revisions to the mission and vision statements, the council will continue their discussion of goals and how to measure their accomplishment at the June meeting.

Welcome to New CNPS Staff

Christina Neifer has taken on the Membership Assistant position and works closely with chapters and members. Christina is working part time and is a student at Sacramento State.

Suzanne Guyton-DaVirro has assumed the position of Assistant Bookkeeper and will be handling accounts payable, payroll, and sales accounting. Suzanne works part time and is pursuing an accounting degree at Cosumnes River College. Cari Porter has joined the staff as half-time Development Director and half-time Interim Finance Director. Cari comes with many years experience in development and finance.

Please join us in welcoming Christina, Suzanne and Cari to CNPS.

California Glory Award

In honor of its 40 years of dedication to the preservation of California native flora, CNPS was recently presented with The California Glory Award by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. The award is given annually to an organization or individual which has made outstanding contributions towards promotion of native plants and education of the public about their ecological, aesthetic and economic importance to California.



Under a tented canopy in Claremont on May 1, Sandy McCoy, CNPS vice president, and Pam Muick, executive director, accepted the award on behalf of the Society. They

also received a resolution of appreciation sent by Mike Antonovich, District Supervisor, County of Los Angeles. Among the many CNPS members in the audience who were recognized as well were Betsey Landis, Patt McDaniels, Ilene Anderson, Sarah Jayne, Lorrae Fuentes, and Bart O'Brien.

The presentation highlighted a number of CNPS accomplishments (see box below). 🌿

Note from CNPS Finance Manager

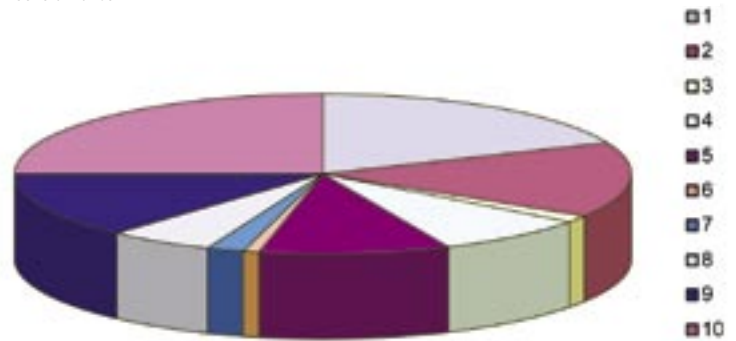
Just as we all prepare our household budgets, corporations also prepare budgets annually and track them monthly. Large corporations, like General Electric for instance, have annual budgets in the billions of dollars, and other smaller companies may have budgets in only the thousands of dollars. Even non-profit corporations, who do not worry about making a profit, also prepare budgets. The California Native Plant Society has just completed our own yearly budget cycle. Some companies have fiscal years that match the calendar years and others do not. CNPS has a fiscal year that starts April 1st and ends March 31st of the next year. Recently at the March 4, 2005 Board of Directors Meeting in Santa Ana, the CNPS Budget for

Fiscal Year 4/1/05 – 3/31/06 was approved.

Our state budget is composed of state Administrative costs; state Program costs, such as Plant Science, Conservation, and Horticulture; Chapter state program costs; and of course, the expected incomes to cover these costs. We receive our income, or funding, from several sources. One important source of our income is annual Membership

FY 2005–6 Budget by Program Area

1. Administration (20%) covered by General Funds
2. Development (15%) covered by General Funds
3. Board (1%) covered by General Funds
4. Chapter (8%) covered by Chapter Funding
5. Conservation (10%) covered by General Funds
6. Education (1%) covered by General Funds
7. Horticulture (2%) largely funded by Grants
8. Rare Plants (5%) covered by General Funds
9. Sales (13%) partly covered by Book Sales
10. Vegetation (25%) largely covered by Contracts



CNPS Accomplishments Cited by RSA

Establishment of 32 chapters across the state, providing statewide advocacy for California's native plants and a staff botanist housed within the California Department of Fish and Game.

Production of six editions of the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California*, widely used and acknowledged by local, state, and federal governments as the authoritative standard reference for botanical consultants and all others interested in these plants.

Publication of the CNPS journal *Fremontia*, recognized as short on technical jargon and long on compelling information about California's native flora.

Stewardship of regional flora, including those for Mount Hamilton Range, Northern Mojave, Butte County, Sonoma County, and Monterey County.

Maintenance in print of such important references as *Origins and Relationships of the California Flora* (Raven and Axelrod), *Terrestrial Vegetation of California* (Barbour and Major), and the updated *Flora of Mount Diablo* (Bowerman).



Participation in local, regional, and statewide conservation activities and engagement in legal action where necessary to preserve California's native plants. 🌿

Dues income. Some other sources are Grants, which specify definite purposes for the funds, and Contracts, also for specific purposes. Other sources include Sales income from our Book and Poster program and there are a few fund sources from Chapter-funded State Programs. Lastly, we have some transfers that span several years and operating reserves that can be used to cover the annual budget costs. The funds we receive from membership, sales, and other internal transfers are considered "General Funds." Above is a graph showing our anticipated expenditures (budget) by program area for the next fiscal year.

Please call the State Office at (916)447-2677 if you have questions or concerns regarding the CNPS State Budget. 🌿

Fall Chapter Council Meeting / Conservation Conference

A CNPS 40TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT! SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2005

The Chapter Council Fall Meeting and Conservation Conference will be held at a great facility in historic San Clemente on the Southern California coast. There will be opportunities to gather in informal groups (as proved popular and productive at our June meeting), as well as the Chapter Council meeting. Chapters will again have a chance to present displays highlighting their history, setting, and accomplishments, this time with an emphasis on the south-state chapters.

The Conservation Conference, which occurs Friday evening and Saturday afternoon will present the ideas gathered at the four state-wide Conservation Visioning meetings (see article on Page 1). These ideas will be the focus areas for the Conservation Program over the next few years.

Much good information will be presented and exchanged, both in the formal gathering and in informal conversations. And there will be excellent programs each evening. You won't find a better group to spend time with, or a better opportunity to learn and to share than this, our 40th Anniversary fall meeting—that is if you can resist just hanging out at the nearby beach! Please come, and bring your friends, family, and other chapter members. 🌿



Left to right, Cari Porter, new Development Director (half-time) and Interim Finance Manager (half-time); Lois Cunningham, outgoing Finance Manager; Suzanne DaVirro, Assistant Bookkeeper.



THE GRASS POSTERS

California's native grasses have never looked more beautiful than in these four posters, drawn from plants in the field by the artist Kristin Jakob. Native are grasses depicted on three of the set and the introduced grasses grouped on the other. Available either laminated or unlaminated. Price \$20 plain, \$25 laminated. 🌿

We are late
again, but
in color!



Visit CNPS.org

The California Native Plant Society is a state-wide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants. Membership is open to all.



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