



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BULLETIN

Conservation: New Strategy, New Partners

Environmentalists and cattle ranchers find common ground

BY CAROL WITHAM

What do the California Native Plant Society and cattle ranchers have in common? This question was answered during a unique summit held on August 26, 2005 between numerous environmental organizations (including CNPS), the California Cattlemen's Association, and the California Farm Bureau. The meeting took place on a cattle ranch where the owner is restoring riparian vegetation, and he generously treated us to a ranch-style barbecue lunch during the summit.

DISSATISFACTION WITH STATUS QUO

For several years CNPS has been an active member in a coalition of environmental groups known as the California Endangered Species and Habitat Alliance (CESHA). This group grew out of the need to share resources and ideas, as well as the work of trying to preserve species and habitat. The alliance includes national, state, and local groups. We schedule monthly teleconference calls to discuss issues of mutual concern and to alert each other to local issues that may be important statewide.

CESHA has been meeting with Steve Thompson, manager of the California/Nevada Operations Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and his senior staff on a quarterly basis to discuss issues related to implementation of the Endangered Species Act. Many of the early meetings addressed our complaints concerning USFWS not doing enough to enforce the Act, and their counter-complaints that we sue them too much. This all changed this past



Vernal pool grasslands require grazing to remain healthy habitats for native species.

Carol Witham

summer when Thompson challenged CESHA to come up with one conservation issue that we could work on *together*.

What ensued was several months of discussion by phone and email to reach consensus on which "one conservation issue" CESHA should select. We decided to focus on the value of Central Valley grasslands for endangered species, and the severe threat posed by explosive urbaniza-

tion of the valley and adjacent foothills, nearly all of which is in private ownership. CESHA then prepared a white paper on the issue.

CALIFORNIA RANGELAND RESOLUTION

Thompson asked to share our white paper with the California Cattlemen's Association

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From the Capitol

BY VERN GOEHRING

It's been a strange year in Sacramento. One would be pretty out of touch to not know a bit about Governor Schwarzenegger's special election politics and the challenge he gave the Legislature early in 2005 to go straight to the voters if they opposed his political agenda.

Contrary to his intent, the Governor's big loss at the polls in November 2005 largely served to politically strengthen the teachers, nurses, firefighters, and law enforcement public employee unions. While it remains unclear what this means to the balance of power in the Capitol, the governor has already made a number of overtures to his political opponents that signal a policy change.

It seems that a cornerstone for the coming year will be a huge bond measure. Early reports suggest the Governor is considering a general obligation bond (paid off using general tax revenues) in excess of \$50 billion. It could fund highways, schools, housing, flood control, parks, power plants, water treat-

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A Note from the President

I am excited about working with everyone during the next two years. Current chapter and program priorities are vital to the success of CNPS, as are forward-looking ideas from volunteers and staff. Maintaining an environment in which tools and support are readily available to members for accomplishments in these activities is my goal. For the first quarter of 2006, that means helping the new executive director get up-to-speed, taking a fresh look at fundraising, acting on Conservation Director options, and listening.

More importantly, while some of us focus our attention on those items, Society programs will continue working on behalf of native vegetation and you. Local chapters offer a wide range of native plant activities in which members can participate. The Vegetation and Rare Plant Programs, either directly or in collaboration with others, continue to serve as the leading source of information on California native plants and habitats. The Conservation Program continues to monitor risks to vegetation and to take action

on selected issues to protect it. The Horticulture Program is developing a greatly expanded website presence that you will see in the first half of this year. And the Publications Program continues to produce the books, posters, and periodicals that are key reference sources in our personal and public libraries, as well as



public educational tools.

I look forward to seeing you and speaking with you at chapter meetings, Chapter Council weekends, hikes, and anywhere else our paths meet.

—Brad Jenkins,
President, CNPS Board of Directors

CNPS Honors Legislators of the Year

At the Chapter Council's annual meeting at UC Berkeley, CNPS honored Assemblywoman Loni Hancock as its Legislator of the Year for 2005. Assemblywoman Hancock, who represents parts of Alameda and Contra Costa counties, has made a statewide name for herself in the three years since she was elected to the Assembly due to her leadership on a range of issues.

In addition, last September Assemblywomen Fran Pavley of the Santa Monica Mountains area of Los Angeles and Ventura counties received the Legislator of the Year award for 2004.

In presenting the awards, CNPS Legislative Advocate Vern Goehring noted that both Hancock and Pavley were successful legislators largely because they set realistic goals, were focused on their work, educated themselves on the issues, and were sensitive to resolving valid competing concerns. In addition, both legislators have excellent staff with years of experience in the Capitol who help guide them through the complexities of enacting legislation.

Hancock was recognized primarily for her sponsorship of legislation in 2004 to solve a legal problem that had prevented volunteers from working on State-funded projects without being paid prevailing wages, since many of those projects involved habitat enhancement and restoration. Hancock, who chairs the State Assembly's Natural Resources Committee, is a strong supporter of the environment, smart growth, funds for conservation, CEQA, environmental justice, and many similar issues.

Pavley, during her first year in the Legislature, authored a bill with CNPS to protect newly discovered extinct species under the Endangered Species Act. Since then, in her role as chair of the Budget Subcommittee that oversees all state resources activities, she has led efforts to protect habitat and ensure funding for conservation programs. 🌿



Top: East Bay Assemblywoman Loni Hancock was honored for her strong support of the environment, environmental justice, and related issues. Vern Goehring presented her with CNPS's Legislator of the Year award at last December's Chapter Council meeting in Berkeley.

Right: Last September Assemblywoman Fran Pavley (far left) was recognized as CNPS Legislator of the Year for 2004, and Halli Mason (2nd from right) became a CNPS Fellow. Others in the photo are (left-to-right): Vern Goehring, Betsy Landis, and Steve Hartman.



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(NOW RECRUITING), Executive Director

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News from the Rare Plant Program

DATABASE UPGRADE

CNPS members, agency botanists, consulting botanists, and others frequently remark that the *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* is an invaluable tool for their work. They rely on both the online and printed versions to assist them in surveying, planning, and conservation activities. To better serve all *Inventory* users, the CNPS Rare Plant



Fred Roberts

Intermediate Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *intermedius*), a *CNPS List 1B* plant, crosses in nature with the more common *Weedii Mariposa Lily* (*Calochortus weedii* var. *weedii*). Should any of the progeny, such as the examples shown here, qualify for special protection?

Program is upgrading the computer database that stores the *Inventory's* basic information on rare plants. Currently the database includes information on such things as conservation status, habitat requirements, blooming time, and the USGS quadrangles where rare plants have been found.

Rare Plant Botanist Misa Ward and the program's Database Committee recently outlined the database's most pressing needs and selected a contractor to complete technical aspects of the upgrade. A preliminary version of the upgraded database is now being reviewed, and we expect it to be completed by early 2006. Our modernized database will make it possible for the Rare Plant Program to provide users, on a regular basis, with a much-requested product—affordable printed versions of the rare plant data section of the *Inventory* by region or for the entire State. In addition, the

database upgrade will eventually save hours of staff time by making it possible to enter new data, check for errors, and change existing data more rapidly.

HYBRIDS WORKING GROUP

Several times in recent months the Rare Plant Program has been asked this question: Is protection for naturally occurring hybrids

whose parents include rare plants justified or needed? This issue was identified as a priority during the September and December 2005 meetings of CNPS's rare plant coordinators from our southern and central California chapters. This is a complex issue with many potential ramifications. In 1996, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a proposed rule on intercross taxa, but the rule was never finalized. To provide an opportunity for a dialogue on this issue, the Rare Plant and Conservation Programs will cosponsor an ad hoc Hybrids Working Group. If you are interested in participating, please contact Ann

Howald, Rare Plant Program Director, at annhowald@vom.com.

MORE REGIONAL MEETINGS

The program is also continuing its outreach to chapters. By the time you read this, rare plant coordinators and others interested in rare plants from the central California chapters (Bristlecone, Alta Peak, Sequoia, Monterey Bay, Sierra Foothills, North San Joaquin, Santa Clara Valley, Santa Cruz County, East Bay, Yerba Buena, and Marin) will have met in the East Bay to discuss how the program can best assist them. Northern California chapters, you are not forgotten! We are hoping to schedule a meeting for you in early 2006. 🌱

—Ann Howald,
Rare Plant Program Director

Staff Departures

Two CNPS Conservation Program staffers recently left their positions, and CNPS wishes to thank both for their expert advice and tireless efforts on behalf of the Society.



Ileene Anderson served as CNPS Southern California Regional Botanist since 1997. She took on major development issues, advised on desert issues, and

for a time headed the Desert Advisory Council of the Bureau of Land Management. Ileene commented and advised on plant/habitat management planning processes in the southern National Forests, conservation plans in Riverside County, and development plans all over southern California. Another facet of her work was to suggest appropriate native plants for landscaping on many different projects. She also worked part-time in her own consulting business. Ileene now works as a conservation biologist for the Center for Biological Diversity and will continue working on southern California issues.

Jessica Olson served as the first Conservation Analyst for the East Bay Chapter. Her job involved gleaning pertinent information from the chapter's plant scientists and then preparing timely



Brian Anacker

comments on a number of land-use planning issues. One of her most valuable contributions was attending meetings and preparing comments on an EIR and HCP for east Contra Costa County. Jessica is now employed full-time by the Sonoma Ecology Center, where she is working as a researcher and restoration specialist. Funds are being raised to continue the position, and a successor will be hired in early 2006. 🌱

—Betsey Landis, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter, and Charli Daniels, East Bay Chapter

NEWS BRIEFS

Celebrating CNPS's 40th Anniversary

On December 2, 2005, CNPS members and supporters celebrated the Society's 40th anniversary with an evening of fine food and drink, sublime live jazz, and proclamations of appreciation from East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) directors Beverly Lane and Jean Siri. Thanks to the generosity of EBRPD, we gathered in the same beautiful room that hosted the birth of CNPS



Representative group of East Bay Chapter's past plant sale chairs and volunteers receive award from CNPS Horticulture Committee. The chapter was recognized for its extraordinary contributions over 40 years to the promotion of native plants regionally and of native plant programs statewide.

back in 1965. The evening also included a silent auction and raffle, a surprise award for the East Bay Chapter's plant sale volunteers, and most importantly, the companionship of friends united by a common goal.

None of us would have been there on December 2 if not for the dedicated efforts of that early group of native plant enthusiasts, along with the continuing efforts of many volunteers through the years—right down to the night of the party. Thanks to everyone who helped, donated, or just shared in the enthusiasm of the evening. 🌿

—Sue Rosenthal, East Bay Chapter

GARDENING COURSE FOR NEWBIES

When Susan McGough, the director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at San Jose State University, approached the Santa Clara Valley Chapter about teaching a class on native plant gardening, the chapter responded by putting together a 10-week course titled "Growing California Native Plants" for the fall 2005 semester.

Aimed at beginners, the class curriculum covered plant identification, annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, garden design, maintenance, habitat creation, and weed control. The format combined classroom instruction with field trips to private and public gardens. The instructors—Agi Kehoe, Arvind Kumar, Fran Adams, Judy Mason, Sally Casey, and Tanya Kucak—were chapter members with considerable gardening experience, and the tuition (\$100 for 10 sessions) was modest.

The course attracted 22 students from a variety of backgrounds. Classes were held in

the Institute's conveniently located Lundy Avenue facility. Student feedback was positive and enthusiastic, and the course may be offered again in fall 2006.

—Arvind Kumar, Santa Clara Valley Chapter



On a field trip to Lake Cunningham Regional Park's new California Native Garden in San Jose, students learned about common invasive plants and the different ways to control them from class instructor Tanya Kucak (center, wearing a hat).

CNPS MAKES A SPLASH

Sacramento Splash is an elementary school curriculum that uses the vernal pools at Mather Field to investigate watersheds, water quality, plants, animals, and ecology. The Splash program gives fifth graders an opportunity to explore the magic and mystery of Sacramento vernal pools. Splash was honored with the 2005 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award for Children's Environmental Education.

This curriculum began as a modest effort by CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter volunteer Eva Butler. In 1997 she was asked to work with a fifth grade class to create an environmental project for Disney's annual Environmental Challenge. The Disney program encourages students to participate in action projects that target real-world environmental challenges.

Eva had to start from scratch to create age-appropriate information about vernal pools. The kids were enchanted by the many plants and critters they met. In the second year of the program, the students won the Environmental Challenge grand prize!

Eva has obtained funding for this program and it is currently being offered in over 60 classrooms in Sacramento County. Nearly 9,000 students have participated and many of those have gone on to actively advocate for preservation of vernal pools. Kudos and congratulations to Eva Butler. To find out more about this unique education program, visit www.sacsplash.org.

—Carol Witham, outgoing CNPS Board President



Eva Butler of the Sacramento Valley Chapter holding the 2005 Governor's Award for children's environmental education.

CNPS Spring 2006 Native Plant Sales and Wildflower Festivals

Note: All events are native plant sales unless otherwise indicated.



CHANNEL ISLANDS CHAPTER

Sat., Apr. 1, 9:00 am–2:00 pm, Ventura
Information: www.cnpsci.org

NORTH COAST CHAPTER PLANT SALE AND WILDFLOWER SHOW

Plant Sale: Sat./Sun., May 6–7,
10:00 am–5:00 pm, Manila Bay
Wildflower Show: Fri.–Sun.,
May 5–7, Manila Bay
Information: 707-822-7190, 707-822-2015,
www.NorthCoastCNPS.org

ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

Sat., Apr. 1, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, San Juan Capistrano, Information: www.ocnps.org

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Sat., Mar. 11, 9:00 am–4:00 pm, San Juan Capistrano, Information: info@cnpsd.org,
www.cnpsd.org, 619-685-7321

SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER

Sat., May 6, 10:00 am–3:00 pm, Los Altos Hills, Information: www.cnps-scv.org,
cnps_scv@yahoo.com, 650-691-9749

SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER 34th ANNUAL WILDFLOWER SHOW

Sat./Sun., Apr. 22–23,
10:00 am–4:00 pm, Santa Clara
Information: www.cnps-scv.org,
cnps_scv@yahoo.com, 650-691-9749

SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER 4th ANNUAL GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Sun., Apr. 30, 10:00 am–4:00 pm,
Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula.
Information:
info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org.
Registration required at
www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org.

SIERRA FOOTHILLS CHAPTER

Sat., Apr. 15, 9:00 am–2:00 pm, Sonora
Information: Carolee James, 209-928-4886

WILLIS L. JEPSON CHAPTER

Sat., May 6, 9:00 am–3:00 pm, Benicia.
Information: Rebecca Mannion,
707-429-2494

WILLIS L. JEPSON CHAPTER GARDEN TOUR

Sat., Jan. 28
Forrest Deaner Botanic Garden
Information: Norma Deaner,
707-745-3906 🌿



Photos: Avinid Kumar

Become a CNPS Patron

Have you considered making a special contribution to the Society, but were waiting to match your interests with specific CNPS needs? Here are some ways you can target your support and become a valued patron of CNPS.

Horticulture Website: Beginning in early 2006, CNPS is adding a horticulture section to its website that features gardening with California native plants. Two years of web hosting and website maintenance cost **\$500**. Will you make this happen? (Contact Peigi Duvall at indigdesign@comcast.net.)

Rare Plant Inventory Update: An updated version of the printed CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* has not been available since the 2001 sixth edition. Funding at **\$500** will produce the printed updates that users and members requested during a 2005 survey. (Contact Ann Howald at annhowald@vom.com.)

Folding Machine: Tens of thousands of mailings and brochures need folding every year, and this work is either being done by hand or at additional cost by printers. We would love to print your name on the front of this equipment, which will increase office efficiency. (**\$1,000**) (Contact Cari Porter at cporter@cnps.org.)

Phone System: Communication is at the heart of the work performed by central office staff. However, the office's outdated equipment requires frequent maintenance, which drains resources that could be used by CNPS programs. Your funding will allow us to purchase up-to-date equipment for a new telephone, teleconferencing, faxing, and voice mail system. (**\$5,000**) (Contact Cari Porter at cporter@cnps.org.)

Contributions at these levels will be recognized in the *CNPS Bulletin* and are tax deductible. We greatly appreciate your generous support. 🌿

—Brad Jenkins,
CNPS Board President

New Strategy, New Partners *continued from page 1*

because he believed that there might be some common ground between the environmental coalition and the cattle ranchers. This led to more teleconferences and email discussions that resulted in the two groups meeting in August 2005.

While we came away from the summit knowing that we would never see eye-to-eye on many issues, we were able to identify several important areas of mutual concern. Both

environmentalists and cattle ranchers want to protect Central Valley grasslands and foothill blue oak woodlands from encroaching urbanization. Both groups also want to see private cattle ranching continue to be economically viable so that these areas remain as rangeland.

Many conservationists may feel that grazing is destructive and incompatible with native plant conservation—and in many ecosystems it is.

From the Capitol *continued from page 1*

ment systems, and maybe even a bit of habitat conservation. CNPS will be interested in not only how much may go to conservation, but also what kinds of provisions will be included, or more accurately what laws may be waived, to facilitate construction of capital outlay projects.

LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY FOR 2006

We will vigorously oppose any attempts to set aside the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), other habitat and species protections, or public participation guarantees of project review. CNPS will work with other groups to stop attempts to roll back environmental protection, and instead to promote smart land-use practices, such as avoiding construction in flood-prone wetland areas and other key wildlife habitat. Significant support for infrastructure improvements should also include support for our “natural” infrastructure.

In 2005 the Schwarzenegger administration made an effort to “reform” CEQA to better support housing construction, in-fill, and smart growth. It had two competing proposals—neither of which were particularly good for the environment—and it couldn’t decide which should go forward. In 2006 we can expect the Governor to include CEQA reform as part of his bond proposal.

The budget will again be the arena for many important decisions. Key departments within the State Resources Agency are chronically

underfunded. In particular, the Department of Fish and Game continually struggles to complete reviews of EIRs, Timber Harvest Plans, and Stream Alteration Agreements. Rumors suggest the administration will propose some funding increases for Fish and Game and other Resources Agency departments. CNPS will work hard to ensure adequate funding for conservation efforts.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Due to a temporary cut in the budget for the CNPS Legislative Program, it is critical that a Legislative Committee be formed early in 2006 to help identify key issues and appropriate CNPS priorities and positions. Several committee members will continue on from 2005, but more are needed. Ideally at least one person from each chapter would serve on the Legislative Committee. Serving takes as much time as you are able to offer—there is no minimum level of commitment.

If you are interested in learning more about our legislative program and how you can help, please send an email to legislation@cnps.org or call me at 916-444-8194. 🌱

Vern Goebing serves as CNPS Legislative Advocate in the state capitol, and is also a consultant to the Urban Creeks Council, California Watershed Network, and the California Sea Urchin Commission.

However, recent scientific studies conducted in the Central Valley have shown that appropriate grazing is not only compatible with native species diversity, but in some habitats such as vernal pools it is *essential*. For those of you who may want to read these studies, they can be found at www.vernalpools.org/literature.htm.

Following the August summit, the newly formed coalition of conservationists—both



California environmentalists and ranchers exchange views at August 2005 summit.

the traditional environmental organizations and the landowners who cherish their land and way of life—have been working together to set common goals and objectives. The first step in reaching that common ground was the development of The California Rangeland Resolution (see www.cnps.org). This resolution stresses the value and need to conserve Central Valley rangelands for species and habitat preservation and for maintaining the economic viability of the private ranching industry—the land stewards of this unique ecosystem and its species.

Ultimately this new group, called the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, hopes to lobby Congress for a bigger share of the Farm Bill for rangeland preservation, drive the priorities of California’s Wildlife Conservation Board, and educate the public on the benefits of conserving the state’s Central Valley rangelands. 🌱

Carol Witham is past president of CNPS and active in Central Valley conservation issues.

Native Gardening in Season

Maintaining Your Native Plant Garden in Winter and Early Spring

BY ABBIE BLAIR

Editor's Note: *With the increasing number of people choosing California native plants for their landscapes, we have received many requests for a regular feature that addresses native gardening and maintenance. We are pleased, with this issue of the CNPS Bulletin, to launch such an endeavor. There are many plant communities throughout the state, and we need your help in making sure as many regions are represented as possible. Please send article ideas, as well as local and general tips, comments, and digital photos to CNPSHort@comcast.net. Photos should be accurately described and correctly credited. While this information can be sent any time of year, the deadline for each publication is as follows: January 1 for the Apr–June issue, April 1 for the July–Sept issue, July 1 for the Oct–Dec issue, and October 1 for the Jan–Mar issue. Submitted materials will be used at the sole discretion of the Bulletin editor.*

Depending upon where you live in California, fall and winter can be the busiest times in a native plant garden, so it's best to pace yourself and do a little work each week.

Some of the most important maintenance chores—including pruning, weeding, and transplanting—need to be done in the winter, generally during December through February.

Cut to the ground California fuchsia (*Epilobium* or *Zauschneria* sp.), milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.) and other species that die back above ground in the cool season.

Established irises can be cut back to 1–2" from the ground. This is a good time to divide them, if needed.

Cut back bunch grasses to 3–4" from the

ground and remove brown/dead foliage. Divide and transplant now, if desired.

Remove all brown fronds of evergreen and deciduous ferns.

Remove (deadhead) spent flowers on buckwheats (*Eriogonum* sp.), coyote mint (*Monardella* sp.), penstemon, hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).



Early spring colors in a meadow: California poppy, blue flax, yarrow, purple Pacific Coast Hybrid iris, and flowering branches of western redbud. Sunnyvale, CA.

Cut Matilija poppy (*Romneya coulteri*) to 1–2" from the ground and remove any brown stalks.

Cut back one-third of bush monkeyflower, taking care not to cut into the hard wood.

This is also the time to pull weeds, with roots intact if possible. Control snails and slugs: hand trap and pick, use beer, etc. or, if you choose to use a commercial product, use the kind that is safe around children, pets, and wildlife.

Fall and winter are the best times to plant new additions to the garden, since the cool, wet weather best enables plant roots to establish themselves before the hot, dry summer.

Divide and transplant perennials with shallow roots. Most natives with deep roots do not tolerate transplanting. Root-prune and repot containerized natives, and fertilize with an organic, slow-release fertilizer. Winter flowering potted natives such as manzanita and currant should not be disturbed at this time. Wait until they go dormant before repotting them. Propagate extra plants from seeds, divisions, and soft cuttings to expand your garden or share with other enthusiasts. Sow wildflower seeds in the ground and in outdoor pots.

Early spring brings a primary chore of controlling weeds, but also begins the procession of glorious blooms that California natives are best known for. In most areas, the following activities can be carried out from March through May. Planting can continue—water new plants weekly if rainfall is low, but only as needed. Continue to control weeds and, as rains subside, replenish the mulch. Fresh mulch gives a tidy, new look to a garden, suppresses weeds, and helps to retain moisture. 🌱

Abbie Blair is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS, and is a professional garden designer and maintenance consultant who specializes in California native plants.



Fresh growth of pitcher sage (*Lepechinia fragrans*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), and trellised chaparral clematis (*Clematis lasiantha*) during the winter season. Keboe garden, Sunnyvale, CA.

New Board Members

Please welcome and congratulate our new board president! At its December 2005 meeting, the CNPS Chapter Council elected Brad Jenkins of the Orange County Chapter as Board President of CNPS. Brad is an avid conservationist and has a broad background in business and management. Also, Dave Flietner of the San Diego Chapter was elected to the State Board of CNPS as Chapter Council Representative. Dave has a master's degree in botany and works as a consultant.

The State Board is short by two directors. Persons interested in serving CNPS as board members should contact Sandy McCoy (sandy McCoy@mindspring.com).

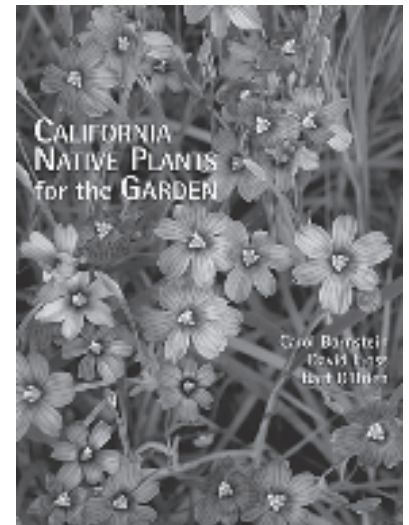
SCal Hosts Chapter Council

We'll gather at the beautiful Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains for our spring Chapter Council meeting, March 4, 2006. Hosting the meeting will be the San Gabriel Mountains and Riverside Chapters.

Bart O'Brien, director of horticulture at Rancho Santa Ana and coauthor of the new book, *California Native Plants for the Garden*, will be the featured speaker on Saturday night. His many years of research has provided Californians with a wealth of information about excellent cultivars and companion plants for many of their favorite natives. There will also

be opportunities throughout most of the weekend to visit the beautiful and educational botanic garden.

During the Saturday meeting we'll talk about how the Council can best fulfill its important role in CNPS, share information about what is going on in the local chapters, and receive updates on state programs and governance. And we'll likely consider some things not yet in view. We encourage you to bring your friends and family to our Chapter Council weekend in southern California. More details about the meeting will be available on the CNPS website. 🌿



Saturday night's speaker, Bart O'Brien, is coauthor of this new guide, which is certain to be a valuable addition to the libraries of native plant gardeners.

—Jim Bishop, new Chair, and Lynn Houser, outgoing Vice-Chair, Chapter Council

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. Visit CNPS.org



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