Bulletin

Catering to the Native Plant Gardener

A horticultural section is coming soon to the CNPS Website

BY PEIGI DUVALL

Each of us was attracted to CNPS for various reasons. In my case, I was trying to find the best source for horticultural information on California natives. Using a Web search engine, I immediately found the California Native Plant Society website, and once there discovered a treasure trove of conservation and plant science information, local chapter links, legislative action items, and much more.

But where could I go to find information on the care and feeding of an *Artemisia pycnocephala* (sandhill sage)? Many chapters have excellent horticultural and gardening content, including my own wonderful Santa Clara Valley Chapter. But why wasn't there a statewide repository of information on native plant culture with great garden photos that would have me running to a local native nursery or my chapter plant sale, and snatching up a combination of plants that would go beautifully in my Bay Area garden?

The good news is that the CNPS Horticulture Program is about to launch a presence on the state website that will include many items of interest to CNPS members and other native plant enthusiasts. The horticulture-related links currently located on the state website homepage will now be found in a special horticulture section, along with many other items, including chapter plant sale notices, a list of specialty nurseries that sell native plants, and public gardens where native plants can be seen. In addition, we will have clear explanations of plant communities and gene pool contamination (why the first is horticulturally favorable and the latter is not), as well as planting and maintenance guidelines. A comprehensive list of books for the native plant gardener will be there, as will a photo gallery of native gardens throughout the state. We also plan on having a plant database of horticultural information, beginning with southern California native plants for school gardens, which will be expanded over time. Are you excited yet? So are we.



Peigi Duvall

*An example of garden images soon to be available on the CNPS website. Pictured here at the Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano in early fall are autumn sage (*Salvia greggii*, foreground, non-native), coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*, non-native), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos 'Lester Rowntree'*).*

For the photo gallery, we are asking CNPS members in our state to begin submitting photos of native plant gardens to the Horticulture Program. We are specifically seeking photos of native or predominantly native plant *gardens*, but are not interested in receiving photos of individual plants. Actual use is subject to committee approval, and all material will be credited to the photographer. Please include the following information with each photo you submit:

- Photographer's name and year taken
- General location of garden
- Season in which photo was taken
- Names (botanical and common) of showcased plants in photo

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Conservation Visioning

2005 has been a banner year for the Conservation Program of CNPS. Regional meetings were held throughout the state and reinvigorated everyone involved in conservation work. These meetings also provided guidance to the state organization on how best to provide support to the chapters. Additionally, participants also contributed valuable suggestions on more effective ways of connecting conservation efforts to those of other CNPS programs.

So what issues were overwhelmingly popular at every regional meeting? One was the need for additional training of chapter members. Conservation volunteers perform the bulk of the thankless and often confrontational tasks of reading environmental documents, and going to public hearings and providing comments. They also keep track of county and city general plans and developments, as well as those at local National Forests and Bureau of Land Management natural areas. The challenges are never-ending and the work is crucial. By providing more training on

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A Note from the President

CNPS in Transition

INTERIM MANAGEMENT

Since the departure of executive director Pam Muick in July, the CNPS board of directors has been busy setting up a transition and recruitment plan. For the transition period, we are proud to have former state president Sue Britting serving as part-time interim executive director. Sue will be focusing on human resources management and grant funding development during her tenure. Sue is a great problem solver, and her past experience with CNPS makes her the ideal person for the interim job.

The board of directors and interim executive director are also building on the excellent management foundations initiated by Pam Muick. We are currently identifying additional policies and procedures for the board to adopt in order to make the executive director's job easier to carry out. The goal is to implement and streamline procedures that lead to more efficiency for everyone.

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(NOW RECRUITING), Executive Director

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECRUITMENT

On August 6, the board approved a job description, job announcement, and recruitment plan. The search committee consists of David Diaz, Diana Hickson (vice chair), Lynn Houser, Brad Jenkins, David Magney (chair), and Sandy McCoy. Paid staff and volunteer program directors are also represented on the committee by Julie Evens and Peigi Duvall.

The committee members have been very active. They hold weekly teleconferences, have formulated applicant screening criteria, and are beginning to develop questions for first and second interviews. Our goal is to have a broad pool of qualified candidates. To this end, search committee members and the board are actively contacting potential candidates and other conservation organizations to get the word out.

With an application deadline of October 31st, the search committee anticipates that the first round of interviews may be completed when this *Bulletin* reaches your mailbox. We are all hoping to have a new executive director on board by the beginning of the calendar year.

OFFICE STAFFING

Since the departure of finance manager Lois Cunningham in June, and assistant bookkeeper Suzanne DaVirro in September, the interim executive director and staff have been looking carefully at office staff duties and procedures. This has resulted in some rearrangements.

Cari Porter, originally hired in May as half-time development director, has recently accepted another half-time position with CNPS as finance manager. Cari has outstanding organizational and supervisory skills that have helped to improved workflow and efficiency in the office. Christina Neifer continues to serve cheerfully as part-time membership assistant. CNPS is also proud to welcome Anne Wood to the organization as our new part-time bookkeeper.

AS WE MOVE FORWARD

Transitions can be challenging. We all get used to doing something a certain way or seeing something from a certain perspective, which can make change difficult. However, transitions are also a time of opportunity. Thomas Edison once wrote, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." Given how hard CNPS members work for the native plants of California, I doubt that we will miss this new opportunity to learn and grow during our current transition.

—Carol Witham, CNPS president

CNPS Receives RSA Medal

This year CNPS received The California Glory Award from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG), in honor of the organization's 40 years of service to preserving California's native flora. Pictured here is a bronze replica of the award, which was designed by Judy Bonzi-Dubrauski, great-granddaughter of Susanna Bixby-Bryant, a founder of RSABG. The award shows the tower from the original garden site and the California Glory fremontodendron, one of RSABG's earliest horticultural selections.



Conservation Visioning

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the processes and laws (see sidebar, below) that allow for public input into activities that impact native plants, the Conservation Program will be strengthened at every level and our native flora will benefit.

Habitat Conservation Plans/Natural Communities Conservation Plans were of concern to most regions. For areas like southern California that already have many of these plans in place, participants said they needed more resources to monitor their implementation and to take action if native plants were not being adequately conserved. In the central and northern part of the state, chapter members were more concerned about being represented "at the table" in order to give a voice to plant conservation during the creation of these plans.

CNPS Conservation Training Opportunities

Participants in this year's Conservation Program regional meetings indicated they would like more training in processes and laws that allow for public input on activities that impact native plants. These include:

AT THE STATE LEVEL

California Environmental Quality Act
California Endangered Species Act
Fish and Game Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreements
Timber Harvest Plans
Natural Communities Conservation Plans

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

National Environmental Policy Act
Federal Endangered Species Act
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act
National Forest Management Act
Federal Lands Policy Management Act
Habitat Conservation Plans

AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

General Plans

The Conservation Program thanks all those who so graciously committed their time to attend these regional visioning meetings and offered valuable suggestions to strengthen the program. A recap of all of the ideas was presented at the Conservation Conference, held in conjunction with the Chapter Council meeting on September 9–10, 2005. If you missed the Conference, you can read the notes for each meeting at *www.cnps.org/programs/conservation/meetings.htm*.

—Ileene Anderson, CNPS senior conservation botanist

Rare Plant Program Meets With Chapter Reps

In September, Misa Ward, CNPS rare plant botanist, and Ann Howald, director of the CNPS Rare Plant Program, met with the rare plant chairs of 10 southern California CNPS chapters to discuss ways in which the program can better serve the chapters. High on the priority list were workshops and other training activities, a conference on locally rare species, and a policy on rare plant hybrids. Future meetings with rare plant coordinators from central and northern California are planned.

Native Plant Gardener

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- Photographer's CNPS chapter (if a CNPS member)
- Additional descriptive comments (optional)

Submissions should be in jpg or png format. Individual images can be emailed to cnpshorticulture@gmail.com, with "Hort Web Photo" placed in the subject header of your message. If you wish to submit multiple images, however, please copy them onto a CD and mail it to: CNPS Horticulture Program, 5150 Cordoy Lane, San Jose, CA 95124. The CD should also contain a Word file that includes the identifying information listed above for each photo. We will also accept slides or photos for scanning. However, if you would like your material returned, please include a SASE.

We believe the new Horticulture Program web page presents yet another opportunity for CNPS members and others to enjoy learning about California's diverse native flora. By increasing public awareness of the beauty and value of native plants and their natural habitats, the need to protect them becomes a natural and obvious conclusion. We will let you know as soon as the web page is ready, and welcome your input and comments.

Peigi Duvall is director of the CNPS Horticulture Program.



Peigi Duvall

*Plants that prefer low to medium water and partial shade. Thriving in a private Santa Clara County garden are Hooker's manzanita (*Arctostaphylos hookeri 'Monterey Carpet'*), sandhill sage (*Artemisia pycnocephala*), and yerba buena (*Satureja douglasii*).*

Educating Landscapers About Natives

BY HALLI MASON

The Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter was asked by the California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) to participate in their annual Landscape Industry Show held in February 2005 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Over 9,500 people attended the show, which featured numerous exhibits and a series of seminars.



John Sassaman

CNPS members offered a workshop on natives to landscapers at the 2005 landscape show in Los Angeles.

Chapter member Steve Hartman and Dan Songster of the Orange County Chapter, with some input from Halli Mason, did a great job of putting together a 90-minute Powerpoint presentation and slide show on native plants in residential and institutional landscapes. It focused on design considerations and plant choices, technical aspects for installing native plants, possible pitfalls, and tips on maintenance. It also included information on where natives that are used in landscaping actually occur in their natural environment.

Both Dan and Steve are effective, animated speakers, and each of their presentations complemented the other quite well. Halli helped to facilitate CNPS participation in the symposium, and also served as session moderator. The audience seemed to follow the presentations attentively, and directed their questions to very pertinent issues. For example, what is the best time to buy and plant natives, and where can they be purchased? How much water is needed before plants get established? Why use natives at all? What type of preparation is required before planting?

The 16 people in the audience—60% men and 40% women—included landscape architects, designers, landscape contractors, and project managers. Following the seminar, all were asked to fill out a questionnaire, which contained mostly positive feedback. It was a great experience to interact with members of a professional landscapers organization. We reached many people with our presentation and hope they will share what they learned with their clientele. It was fun pulling this event together, and our two chapters received a generous stipend from CLCA, which they shared. If asked, we would likely do it again.

Halli Mason is active in the Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of CNPS.

Call for Plant Communities Photos

The CNPS Vegetation Program is launching a request for donations to our growing photo collection. We need your photographs that principally represent plant communities within California.

The collection will be used to illustrate the variety of California vegetation types, and to underscore the value of protecting our state's rare plant communities. We plan to incorporate photographs into vegetation publications and resources, such as the next edition of *The Manual of California Vegetation* (which will be produced by late 2006 and will describe over 500 alliances/series).

If you have high quality slides or digital images of vegetation/plant communities, please consider donating your slides or images to our collection. For more detailed information on this project or how to donate photos, go to: http://www.cnps.org/programs/vegetation/photocollection.htm.

Strategic Planning Update

MISSION STATEMENT ADOPTED AND PRIORITIES SET

After a lengthy debate, the Chapter Council re-adopted the existing mission statement at its September 2005 meeting in San Clemente. Much of the debate focused on the differences between the phrases "habitats" and "plant communities." In general, all who joined in the discussion were looking for a phrase that was comprehensive and would convey the Society's interest in more than just an individual plant and its immediate surroundings. For some, "habitats" was the most comprehensive phrase and for others it was "plant communities."

The council also considered the relative priority of the goals in the CNPS strategic plan. The CNPS Board of Directors asked the council to assist in setting the direction of CNPS by identifying those goals deemed to be most important. By a process of voting, the Chapter Council determined that four of the ten goals were by far the most important. They are:

- Increase public awareness about the importance of native plants and natural habitats and the need to protect them.
- Create a scientific basis to support the protection and appreciation of native plants and natural habitats.
- Advocate for the maximum protection of native plants.
- Develop stable and sufficient financial resources.

This information will be used by the board and staff to guide the establishment of a program of work and a budget for the coming year and beyond. The information will also be used to identify the priorities for our future executive director.

The last step in the Chapter Council's review of the strategic plan will be to consider changes to the vision statement at the December meeting.

CNPS Joins Litigation to Protect Sierra Nevada Lands

The CNPS Board of Directors voted in September to join the California Oak Foundation and the California Indian Basketweavers Association in litigation to prevent the Stanislaus National Forest from proceeding with its Larson Project. The plan would convert biologically diverse, post-fire vegetation communities to conifer tree plantations, 16 years after wildfire in the area. The plan proposes aerial spraying within one mile of Yosemite National Park and threatens Miwok gathering areas, the Yosemite deer herd's winter food supply, and habitat for migratory and resident birds. Thousands of acres of hardwood forest and montane chaparral would be eliminated, along with rare plant populations, through repeated applications of herbicides, burning, and mechanical crushing to remove native vegetation.

In July the board also voted to join the Forest Issues Group, South Yuba River Citizens League, California Indian Basketweavers Association, Sierra Club, and Sierra Foothills Audubon Society in litigation of the Tahoe National Forest's Cottonwood Project, which also proposes converting native vegetation to tree farms through the use of herbicides. For more information about the Larson and Cottonwood Projects, visit the Forestry Program's webpage at http://www.cnps.org/programs/forestry/index.htm.

—Jen Kalt, Forestry Program coordinator



Pat Stone

An area in the Larson Project of oaks, other hardwoods, and native shrubs, which will be killed with herbicides and converted to a conifer plantation if current National Forest plans are implemented.

CNPS Donors

We wish to thank the following major donors for their contributions to the state organization in fiscal year 2004–2005.* Their continuing support is vital to the work of CNPS.

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* Individual donations made directly to chapters are not included in this listing.

2004–2005 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue & Other Support

Member Dues	$341,782
Donations	343,974
Sales, net of Cost of Sales	26,718
Other Income	212,361
Total Revenue & Other Support	924,835

Program & Administrative Expenses

Management & General	170,536
Board	20,297
Fundraising	135,640
Plant Science	227,223
Conservation	130,043
Horticulture & Education	191,076
Chapter Services	116,606
Sales	41,032
Total Administrative Expenses	1,032,453
Change in Assets	-107,618
Net Assets, March 31, 2005	485,058

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, 3/31/2005

Current Assets

Cash	249,219
Short-term Investments	125,229
Agency Fund	25,193
Marketable Securities	53,518
Sales Accounts Receivable	19,146
Grants Receivable	36,277
Contracts Receivable	69,990
Inventory	189,178
Prepaid Expenses	10,339
Land & Office Equipment	15,484
Chapter Poster Sales Receivables	10,004
Deposits	2,177
Total Assets	805,754

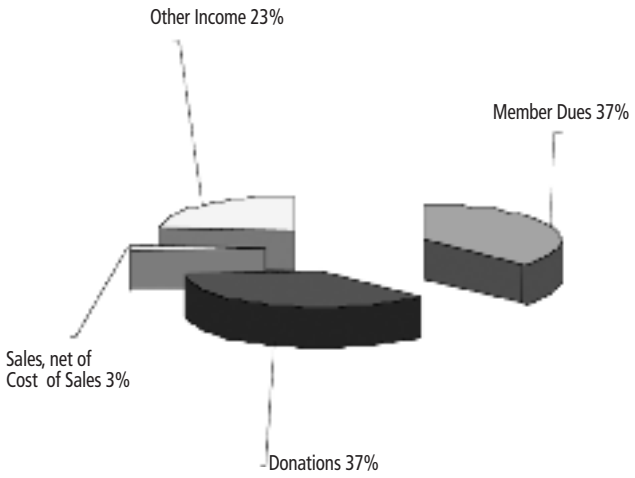
Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	14,502
Accrued Expenses	39,517
Agency Fund	25,193
Deferred Income	241,484
Total Current Liabilities	320,696
Net Assets	485,058
Totals Liabilities & Net Assets	805,754

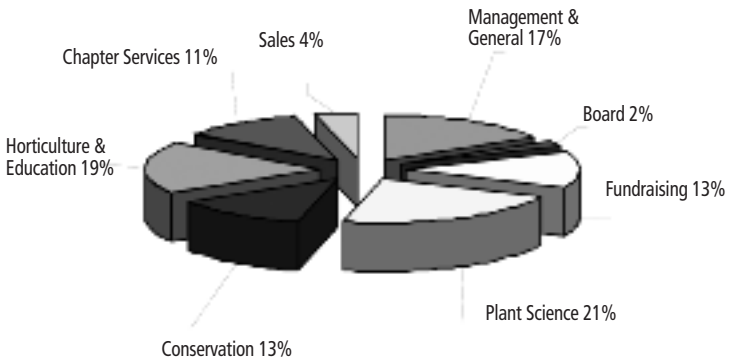
Financial Report

The Statement of Financial Activities and pie charts below represent the Society's fiscal year (April 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005) as stated in our financial statements audited by Damore, Hamric & Schneider, Inc. Our finances during the fiscal year closely matched budget projections. The reduction in net assets represents the utilization of restricted funds and retained surplus that we had "saved up" from previous years. The CNPS Board approved spending these funds to accomplish the Society's mission. The Society provides services (sales tax and financial reporting, membership management, insurance coverage, etc.) for the 32 CNPS chapters, however additional chapter-generated income and chapter assets are not represented in this statement of activities.

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT



PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



2004–2005 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

Achievements

CNPS'S 32 LOCAL CHAPTERS: THE HEART OF THE SOCIETY

Chapter volunteers throughout the state logged over 85,000 hours of service on behalf of CNPS. Chapter plant sales continue to provide their local communities with a source of hard-to-find native plants, in addition to educating the public about the importance of natives. This year chapters held over 36 plant sales. Chapters also organized annual garden tours, maintained native plant nurseries, sponsored botanical expeditions and work parties, monitored rare plants, held wildflower shows, funded scholarship programs, and more. Over 240 monthly programs, 360 outings, and 180 work parties were held by chapters. Outreach included tabling at local events, speaking to other community groups, providing educational programs for school children, and publishing over 175 newsletters highlighting local issues and activities.

VEGETATION PROGRAM

This was a banner year for the Vegetation Program. Over 500 unique descriptions of plant associations were finalized for six assessment areas throughout California, and identification keys were created for these types. In addition to assisting conservation planning in the areas where the classifications occurred, this new data will be used to support the revision to CNPS Press's *Manual of California Vegetation* due out in late 2006. In an effort to get the word out on vegetation assessment, the program trained over 190 people in CNPS-endorsed techniques. Participants included CNPS members, agency specialists, and biological consultants.

RARE PLANT PROGRAM

Continuous processing of information is the cornerstone of our goal to provide the most up-to-date information on rare plants, their distribution, and threats. This year the program instituted a new Web-based process that allows frequent review of the status of individual plants by our scientific advisors. This enables us to update the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* several times each year. This year also was a time of reflection and visioning. Through a series of planning meetings we established a program of work for the next year and priorities for future years.



Slow Ries

Vegetation workshop held at Deer Creek Hills (Sacramento County) in conjunction with the Sacramento Valley Chapter in June 2005.

CONSERVATION AND LEGISLATION

Volunteers and staff devoted thousands of hours to ensure that good science formed the basis of management decisions affecting California's native plants. From the forests and deserts to the coastal valleys and plains, we were actively involved in promoting the protection and conservation of our remarkable flora. The Forestry Program worked to limit the use of herbicides on native vegetation in the Larson (Stanislaus National Forest) and Cottonwood (Tahoe National Forest) project areas. Both projects promote the killing of native shrubs and herbs to favor the faster growth of planted conifers.

Off-road vehicle (ORV) use and its associated soil disturbance, erosion, and negative impact to plants have been a focus of the CNPS Conservation Program for many years. To bring this issue to the attention of land management agencies and the public, the program has proposed a "best practices" signage policy for ORV recreation areas that will minimize ORV damage to rare plants. The policy asks agencies to adopt a policy that open space is closed to ORV use unless signs indicate otherwise.

40th Anniversary Celebration and December Meeting

In honor of CNPS' 40th Anniversary, organizers of the December state meeting have put together some special events. The Chapter Council meeting and annual banquet will be held on Saturday, December 3 at the Faculty Club on the University of California, Berkeley campus. In addition, however, there will be a special party on Friday, December 2 in the Brazilian Room of Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley.

Friday evening's party will include Moroccan food, anniversary cake, soft drinks, a jazz duo, and a silent auction. Cost is $10 per person; wine and beer (not included) will also be available. The theme for the silent auction is anything and everything—whether old or new—related to California native plants. This celebration is being organized by the East Bay and Willis L. Jepson Chapters and will be a great way to end our 40th Anniversary year. Please visit the CNPS website at www.cnps.org for more information on the party, reservations, and driving instructions.

The theme of Saturday's Chapter Council meeting is Horticulture and Education, and will include several special afternoon presentations. The full agenda is also posted on the CNPS website.

Saturday evening's annual banquet will honor CNPS Fellows and will be followed by a presentation on dispersal and establishment strategies for ectomycorrhizal fungi in post-fire California forests, by Profession Tom Bruns, Department of Plant and Microbial Biology at UC Berkeley.

The celebration, Chapter Council meeting, and annual banquet are open to all members. We hope to see you there!

Logo Designer Revealed!

Slow Ries (Sacramento Valley Chapter) with cake depicting CNPS's 40th anniversary year logo. Slow designed the logo, which has been used to promote the year-long CNPS celebration. Slow currently serves as newsletter editor for his chapter. Another logo anniversary cake will be served to celebrants at the December 2 party in Berkeley.



Bulletin
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