VOL 42 / NO 4 OCTOBER–DECEMBER 2012

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BULLETIN

CNPS 2013 Workshops

Learn, Travel, Develop Your Skills, and Transform Yourself!

Registration for this exciting line-up of winter/spring 2013 CNPS workshops will open in late October 2012. Be sure to register early, as space tends to fill up quickly. For details and registration go to *http://www.cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/*.

2012

Nov. 8–9, Nature Journaling, John Muir Laws, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Fremont. Register early, workshop will fill!

2013

Jan. 7–9, Vegetation Mapping, Todd Keeler-Wolf, Julie Evens, and John Menke, Berkeley

Mar. 27–28, Conducting Rare Plant Surveys, Heath Bartosh and Aaron Sims, Concord area

Apr. 15–17, Vernal Pool Plant Taxonomy, Carol Witham and Jennifer Buck-Diaz, UC Davis and Central Valley vernal pools

Apr. 13–20, Guadalupe Island Flora, Steve Junak and Alan Harper, Guadalupe Island (dates could change to the following week)

Apr. 23–24, California Rangeland Biodiversity, Jennifer Buck-Diaz, Merced

May 7–9, Measuring and Monitoring Plant Populations, John Willoughby, Bodega Bay

Jun. 11–13, Wetland Plants and Ecosystems, Kerry Heise and Geri Hulse-Stephens, Hopland

Jun. 18–20, Riparian Plants of Southern California, David Magney, Casitas Springs, Ventura County

Sep. 3–5, Vegetation Rapid Assessment, Julie Evens and others, location TBD (somewhere in the Sierras)



Josie Crawford

CNPS Workshop locations are often stunning, including this vernal pool workshop at one of its many locations, Mather Field, just east of Sacramento.

Sponsoring Horticultural Symposia

A proven way to raise funds and increase membership

By Arvind Kumar

Increasing horticultural use of native plants is a key part of the CNPS mission, and an overwhelming majority of CNPS members agree. A 2006 survey found that 80% of CNPS members were interested in native plant gardening.

Many CNPS chapters raise funds by organizing native plant sales, at which they also sign up new and renewing members. These plant buyers/members expect more from us: they expect CNPS to support and sustain their interest in native plant gardening through ongoing talks, tours, workshops, and other educational programs.

In many respects, both directly and indirectly, CNPS is dependent on plant sales for its funding. Plant sales are the top revenue source for many chapters. The memberships collected at plant sales go to the CNPS state general fund, which pays for state staff salaries and programs. However, as native plants become more popular and more widely available at retail nurseries, chapter plant sale revenues have begun to level off or decline. This trend is likely to continue, and even accelerate. There is a strategic need for CNPS to diversify its sources of revenue beyond plant sales.

One way to raise additional funds, as well as to develop and sustain members' interest in native plant gardening, is by offering substantive, fee-based classes, symposia, or seminars. This approach utilizes CNPS's

(continued on page 6)



From the New Executive Director

Inspiration from humble beginnings

I recently read the very first CNPS newsletter, printed in October 1965, just a few weeks after the organization formally incorporated. Archived online by the UC Berkeley digital library, the newsletter is part of a valuable collection that lends insight into the early days of the California Native Plant Society—the first organization in the United States dedicated to the study and appreciation of native plants, and the organization that led to the creation of native plant societies around the world.

At first the simple typed and mimeographed one-sheet issue appears quaintly dated, with a quote from president LBJ and a cute hand-drawn "Native Notes" sycamore leaf logo. However, once you start reading, the content seems surprisingly current. The issue announces a public presentation, appreciates a horticultural project, and tells the story of a successful habitat conservation struggle. Very similar articles can be found in the latest issues of our CNPS chapter newsletters!

Even more striking is how the CNPS mission and voice have remained steadfast over nearly 50 years time, during which seemingly everything else has changed. The newsletter poetically begins with the following reminder:

> We who know the California manzanitas, the poppies and pines, the unique Santa Lucia firs and the miniature columbines of the High Sierra—we have the task of preservation and of caring that the people of tomorrow may know and love the magnificent array of flowers, shrubs, and trees so lavishly bestowed upon our state.

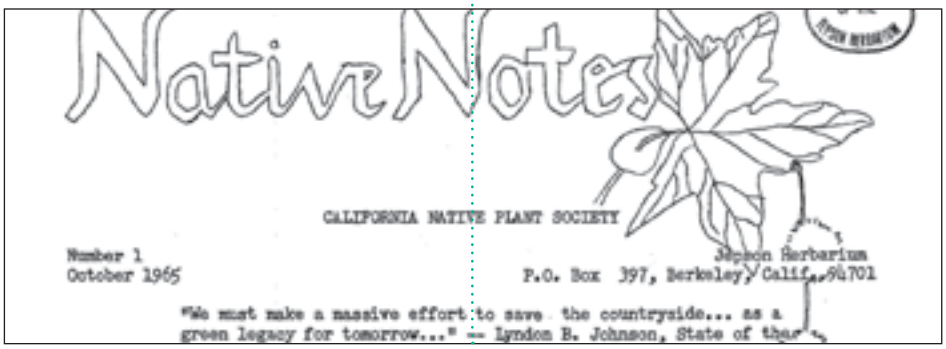
With a manual typewriter underscore for added emphasis, we are told that "The Society's goal is to make sure that no plant types are totally wiped out."

The California Native Plant Society is more than just another nonprofit organization. We are a Society that brings together those special individuals who are able to truly know the manzanitas, poppies, and columbines. The ability to understand these wild plants is a gift that carries an obligation. Just as the founding generation of CNPS preserved this magnificent array for us, we must preserve California's diversity so that future generations may also know and love it.

Like most members, I have at times taken CNPS for granted. However, as we prepare for the 2015 CNPS Conservation Conference, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the organization, I am reminded of just how revolutionary the goals of CNPS were. I give thanks for the California Rare Plant Ranks (formerly the CNPS Lists of rare, endangered, and threatened species), and am awed at the advances in vegetation mapping promoted with partners such as BLM, DFG, and the Forest Service. I celebrate the growing popularity of native plant sales and native plant gardening, the result of hard work year-after-year by chapter volunteers. I cherish the hard-won victories of hundreds of CNPS members who have fought to save California's beautiful places.

Mostly, I am proud to be part of an organization that has remained true to its mission. Few others have maintained such a continuity of purpose; too many have lost sight of their north star. For five decades native plant lovers have responded to the call that ends that first newsletter. It is a call that we all recognize, heed, and repeat: "Would you like to help save California's native plants? What could be more worth your imaginative efforts than the program of the CNPS?"

Dan Gluesenkamp
CNPS Executive Director


Native Notes

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Number 1
October 1965

Jepson Herbarium
P.O. Box 397, Berkeley, Calif., 94701

"We must make a massive effort to save the countryside... as a green legacy for tomorrow..." — Lyndon B. Johnson, State of the

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CNPS Works to Strengthen Timber Harvest Protections

By Vern Goehring

Election years are never normal in Sacramento, although in recent years none have seemed normal. And CNPS's legislative focus this year on forestry and timber harvesting is definitely not normal for us.

Most legislative issues these days are linked to the budget, and our work on timber harvesting is no different. Private forest landowners often voice frustration when they must get approval, in the form of a Timber Harvest Plan (THP), before they can cut down their trees. What they overlook is that the fish and wildlife, rivers and streams, air quality, and watersheds in general that can be heavily impacted by timber harvesting belong to all of us. Public agencies entrusted to protect these resources need to ensure harvesting is done responsibly.

Four state agencies have a role in reviewing timber harvests: the Departments of Forestry and Fire Protection, Fish and Game, and Conservation, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. As far as CNPS is concerned, the prime reviewing agency is the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), which is legally entrusted by the public to protect fish and wildlife, including native flora.

BUDGET BACKGROUND DETAILS

At its peak in the 2005/06 and 2006/07 fiscal years, the DFG had a THP review budget of over $4 million. After that the budget slowly eroded until in 2010/11 the Governor, in search of General Fund money, vetoed $1.5 million, leaving a paltry $1 million for the review of all THPs in California.

During the 2011/12 fiscal year the Legislature gave DFG a one-year increase from *non-General Fund* money, but the governor also vetoed this, leaving the Department seriously underfunded with little hope of an increase the following year. Assemblymembers Chesbro (D–Eureka) and Dickinson (D–Sacramento) wanted to do something about this. They held a hearing in the fall of 2011 investigating funding for THP review. On behalf of CNPS, I advocated that existing THP review fees be increased to more fully fund DFG's review duties. Others called on the Legislature to more adequately fund DFG and other agencies.

Chesbro and Dickinson also formed a Timber Harvest Working Group (THWG) that includes environmental, industry, and state agency representatives to explore solutions to timber harvesting issues, including funding. After several months of meetings with little progress, the governor's office began constructing its own budget-related timber proposal.

The proposal included three elements:

- Enact a new tax on lumber sales (instead of regulatory fees).
- Limit liability of responsible parties for forest fire damages.
- Extend the effective period of THPs from three to five years, with a possible two-year extension.

The Governor's proposal is controversial, not just because a tax requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature. Some environmental groups opposed it, while most, including CNPS, did not take a position. The new tax would generate $10–15 million *more* for THP review than is currently available. CNPS was successful in adding provisions that provide future incentives for the State to set scientific standards as benchmarks for approving THPs. The provision limiting financial compensation to public agencies for forest fires is contentious because of the significant ecological damage that can be caused by fire.

As of this writing, the Legislature has



Danny Slakey

Vern Goehring, CNPS advocate (left), with State Assemblymember Wes Chesbro (Eureka), and Mario de Bernado (center), staff to the California Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

recessed for a summer break without acting on the timber proposal, which had $1.5 million added to the DFG budget as a late concession. Rumors abound that it will come back in August, the final month for this Legislative session.

In the meantime the THWG continues its work on 1) expanding incentives for smaller non-industrial timberland owners to improve management and harvest practices (excluding clearcutting), and 2) improving the analysis of cumulative environmental impacts and related protections included in THPs generally. CNPS remains a leader in a broad coalition of environmental groups looking for workable solutions to these issues, as well as to the funding challenge for THP reviews.

Assemblymembers Chesbro and Dickinson seem committed to resolving longstanding concerns regarding timber harvesting. CNPS will continue to work with them and environmental partners to ensure the best protection possible for native plant and other wildlife resources, given the current political climate in Sacramento and the state's difficult economic situation.

Vern Goehring, CNPS legislative advocate, monitors state legislation and attempts to educate state policymakers on issues affecting the long-term survival of California's native flora.

CHAPTER NEWS

SANTA CLARA VALLEY AND YERBA BUENA CHAPTERS:
Winning the war on jubata grass

The Santa Clara Valley and Yerba Buena Chapters of CNPS have been working, with the help of Caltrans, to restore fountain thistle *(Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale)* at the junction of Highway 92 and Interstate 280.

The project has a history. In the late 1990s, at CNPS's request, Caltrans sprayed several hundred clumps of jubata grass *(Cortaderia jubata)* growing in the serpentine seep at this junction. However, other demands prevented follow-through and the jubata grass vigorously recolonized.

The impetus for our chapters' volunteer group to resume the project came from a 2008 contest that engaged the public regarding endangered species in the National Park Service lands of the San Francisco Bay Area. That same year Caltrans sprayed three times, reducing the massive infestation to a size manageable by our volunteers. The results of the spraying were impressive. Without the jubata grass usurping space, the fountain thistle seedbank exploded. From about two dozen plants previously, biologist Christal Niederer of Creekside Center for Earth Observation (Menlo Park, CA) counted almost 3,000 new plants over five centimeters wide, and estimated between 6,000 to 12,000 new seedlings of less than five centimeters.



Ken Hickman

The bold, beautiful, and rare fountain thistle *(Cirsium fontinale* var. *fontinale),* a strict serpentine endemic listed as state and federally endangered, and a California Rare Plant Rank 1B.1 species.

Anyone working in restoration will tell you that this kind of experience is rare for two reasons: 1) both seeps and serpentine soils make demands which few invasives are able to meet, and 2) jubata grass has an exceedingly short-lived seed, about four to five months. Thus, if you can rid it from a site and kill all seedlings for a year, you're almost home free.

Given that jubata grass seedlings can hide among other grasses, we still find them after two years. But their numbers are getting toward the vanishing point. We make certain that Caltrans eradicates all jubata grass in the vicinity, so there is little possibility of reinvasion.

An amazing aspect of this story is the loyalty of the volunteers, who average 15 people for each of our twice-yearly events. A traditional post-event visit to a Greek restaurant helps build esprit de corps.

Jake Sigg,
Conservation Chair
Yerba Buena Chapter



Sarah Jayne Honored

Brett Hall, CNPS Board of Directors President, presented a special recognition award to Sarah Jayne at the December 2011 Chapter Council Meeting. Sarah was honored for her service as secretary of the board and member of the Executive Committee.

Sarah served as board secretary from January 2010 to December 2011, and was an active member of the Brand Development and Strategic Planning Committees. On the state board, Sarah "was one person who was always willing to help where needed," according to Brian LeNeve, current Board member.

Sarah has a long history of active service with CNPS at both the state and chapter levels. She is a member of the Orange County Chapter Board of Directors, has been the chapter newsletter editor since 1993, has served as chapter secretary and president, and chairs several chapter committees.



Dan Songster

In 2007 Sarah Jayne received the Orange County Chapter's first Native Perennial Award. This award honors a person whose long-term support of the chapter enriches the understanding of and pleasure in California native plants. Presenting the award was Brad Jenkins, chapter president.

As chair of the chapter's garden tour committee Sarah spearheaded tours of local native plant gardens. As chair of its education committee she has overseen the educational grants program, and helped to develop a program for the Orange County Department of Education that uses native plants to explain to third graders how nature's life cycle works.

In her role as the current hospitality chair Sarah hosts chapter board meetings in her home. Sarah also took classes to acquire the skills to develop a chapter website. In addition to her many other responsibilities, she cheerfully organizes refreshments for chapter general meetings.

The CNPS State Board of Directors wishes to express its appreciation and gratitude to Sarah Jayne for the multitude of responsibilities she has assumed and the activities she has been involved in, and which reflect her generous dedication and service to CNPS.

Lauren Brown, Vice-President
CNPS Board of Directors

In Appreciation: Jenny and Scott Fleming

CNPS stalwarts, native plant garden "artists"

It should come as no surprise to those who knew Jenny and Scott Fleming that their passion for native plants and conservation would live on even after they were gone.

Scott and Jenny were founding members of CNPS and have worn many hats since its inception in 1965. "They were stalwarts," says friend Charli Danielsen. "They did what needed to be done." In 1985, in honor of their long-time commitment to CNPS, Jenny and Scott were named CNPS Fellows.

In addition to their many years of service to CNPS, they are perhaps best known for creating a native plant garden at their home in Berkeley that was described by the San Francisco Chronicle as "an invaluable repository of native species." Scott and Jenny spent 50 years collecting and perfecting this living work of art.

A half century ago, it was not as easy as it is today to find California natives in plant nurseries. The Flemings obtained collection permits from the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, and trekked over hill and dale from the Sierras to the Pacific, procuring common and rare plants alike. Their garden was such an important aspect of their lives that Jenny's ashes were spread there after her death in 2008.

Scott passed away in July 2011 and true to form, the Flemings' resolute commitment to California's native plants would have one last curtain call in the form of a very generous bequest to CNPS. For more on the Flemings, see the most recent issue of Fremontia, 38(4), 39(1): 56.



Saxon Holt

Jenny and Scott Fleming in their widely admired native plant garden.

Stacey Flowerdew, Membership and Development Coordinator

Sponsoring Horticultural Symposia *(from page 1)*



Arvind Kumar

Susan Handjian moderated a panel discussion on creating native plant gardens of enduring value at the Growing Natives Symposium in Lafayette in September 2011.

core competencies—native plant gardening expertise and volunteer energy—and translates them into revenue.

There is growing public interest in lawn replacement, water conservation, and sustainable landscaping. CNPS is uniquely positioned to tap into this interest by promoting native plant landscaping as the economic, aesthetic, and ecological alternative. By offering educational events on these topics, CNPS is able to target the public-at-large and not just professionals.

Since 2009, several CNPS chapters have organized highly successful native plant horticulture symposia:

- In March 2009 the Orange County Chapter presented "At Home with Natives," a day-long program of lectures and a garden tour held at Goldenwest College in Huntington Beach. The program was attended by 95 people, and netted the chapter 10 new memberships.
- In March 2009 and September 2011, Bay Area chapters copresented (with representatives from *Pacific Horticulture* and Friends of East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden) "Growing Natives," a two-day symposium with lectures, workshops, and garden tours. Attended by 175–250 people, it raised nearly $11,000 for the state Horticulture Program.
- The Channel Islands Chapter has organized a day-long Native Plant Landscape Symposium in Camarillo each February since 2010. Attendance has ranged from 100 to 200, and each time has netted anywhere from 20 to 58 new memberships.
- The Sierra Foothills Chapter offered a half-day program in September 2010, which grew into a day-long event in 2011. Admission was a modest $25 to $40. Attendance ranged from 85 to 92, impressive by any standard, especially for a small chapter.
- In February 2011 the Santa Clara Valley Chapter organized its first symposium, "California Gardens: Beauty and Sustainability With Native Plants," at Foothill College. The event was attended by 325 people. The chapter donated $2,100 from the proceeds to the state Horticulture Program, and was also able to fund a horticulture scholarship at Foothill College for three years.

It is evident that chapters, both large and small, can organize horticultural symposia utilizing local talent and volunteers. What is needed is a core team of volunteers to coordinate tasks such as budgeting, venue planning, content, sponsorships, publicity, and accounting.

Is your chapter ready to host its own horticulture symposium? If so, the CNPS state office and the Horticulture Committee are ready to help. The state office can provide $500 in seed funding, event insurance, and publicity through the state website and the CNPS E-News.

The state Horticulture Committee can help you develop a theme and suggest topics and speakers. It can provide template letters for potential sponsors and inquiries regarding possible venues. Committee members are also available for phone consultation. In return, the Committee asks that the chapter donate 20% of the proceeds to the state Horticulture Program.

The goal is to impart native plant gardening knowledge to the public, raise funds, and increase membership at the same time. We encourage chapters to sponsor a horticultural symposium in the coming year. Contact me if you have questions at *arvind.kumar@cnps.org*, and keep us informed of your plans.

Arvind Kumar is president of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter, and cochairs the state CNPS Membership Committee.

A "Hybrid" Nursery for the Marin Chapter

Thinking outside the box pays off

By Charlotte Torgovitsky

The spring plant sale is the one major fundraiser that our chapter holds each year. I've been involved with the sale for the last three years, contributing native plants that I had grown in my nursery space at home. A few other members also contribute plants, but the bulk of the inventory was purchased from a few local nurseries. These nurseries are no longer able to offer much of a discount, nor are they able to deliver to the plant sale venue. In short, the plant sale was a lot of work for a handful of people, but not very profitable.

I then decided to offer propagation workshops with the hope that more members would grow plants for the sale, but that didn't materialize. So I approached the chapter board about setting up its own native plant nursery, but the estimated start-up costs and the physical work involved was more than they wished to take on.

I've been propagating plants and collecting seeds for a long time, and used to manage a small nursery and garden education programs with the help of volunteers at a public garden here in Marin. A steadfast group of volunteers formed, and over the years we became friends, enjoying each other's company and the satisfaction of propagating plants together. When funding diminished and my position and programs disappeared, we decided to stick together, and continue to "do good" by propagating plants.

So I started thinking about a creative solution that would benefit CNPS and also keep my group actively involved. Just minutes from my home, in an easy to find, highly visible location, is a family-run nursery that deals primarily with the landscape trade. I introduced myself to the owners, and said, "I see that you have a lot of space here that you're not using—and I have some ideas for you!"

I proposed a situation that would benefit the owners and Marin CNPS, and also indulge my avocation. I would clean up and improve their property by building new sheds and storage areas, create an educational sales display area for California native plants, and bring people to their location for volunteer work sessions, for native plant sales, and for hands-on classes. The owners agreed, and in exchange for the improvements, they do not charge for water, they provide us space under an existing shade structure to grow plants, and we have room to expand operations in a nearby field that already contains an irrigation system. They also agreed to let us hold our chapter's plant sales at the nursery without charging for the space.



Suzi Katz

Volunteers potting plants at the Marin Chapter's new native plant nursery.

My friend Jeff Le Maitre, a skilled carpenter, offered his services at a drastically reduced rate, and my volunteer group pitched in, helping with clean-up, painting, and organization. Marin CNPS funded a native demonstration garden on the grounds, which includes a "no-mow lawn" area showcasing appropriate bunchgrasses and a sedge (*Carex pansa*). The local water district generously provided funds so we could install a state-of-the-art irrigation system to the garden.

This past April our chapter plant sale was a huge success, and the owners were thrilled by the publicity generated by the event and the hundreds of people who were introduced to their location.

Our chapter will hold a fall plant sale for the first time this year. We have grown an extensive selection of native species, and will be supplying about 75% of the stock for the sale. We also have large inventories of some species which are available for purchase by other Bay Area chapters at much larger discounts than commercial nurseries offer. Also available is an extensive native seed collection that might interest chapters who are also growing their own inventory. (If interested, please contact me directly at 415-892-9148, Torgovitsky@comcast.net, and check the Marin Chapter website at *http://www.marin.edu/cnps/* for an inventory list and growing schedule.)

This unconventional arrangement for a chapter's native plant nursery seems to hold much promise for the Marin Chapter.

Charlotte Torgovitsky is a naturalist, educator, and avid gardener who, in her spare time, is working to enhance the habitat value of her two-acre oak woodland in Novato.

Organizational Memberships

Do you work for an agency, consulting firm, or nursery? If so, we invite your organization to join at or upgrade to one of these membership levels to enjoy additional benefits:

Blue Oak: $150
- 2 membership cards
- 1 Fremontia subscription
- 10% Fremontia ad discount

and more!

Suggested for organizations of up to 3 employees

Gray Pine: $500
- 5 membership cards
- 2 Fremontia subscriptions
- Web listing
- 15% Fremontia ad discount

and more!

Suggested for organizations of 4-6 employees

White Fir: $1,000
- 10 membership cards
- 3 Fremontia subscriptions
- Web listing
- 20% Fremontia ad discount
- 10% workshop discount
- 50% workshop discount for 1 student, *and more!*

Suggested for organizations of 7-10 employees

Coast Redwood: $2,500
- 10 membership cards
- 3 Fremontia subscriptions
- Web listing
- 25% Fremontia ad discount
- 10% workshop discount
- 50% workshop discount for 3 students, *and more!*

Suggested for organizations of 11 or more employees

Support CNPS. Upgrade to a level that's right for your organization. To learn more, visit:

www.cnps.org/join

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BULLETIN

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