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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BULLETIN

A Vision for the CNPS Horticulture Program

By Susan Krzywicki

The CNPS Horticulture Program envisions a California where native plants are widely available and routinely incorporated into public and private landscapes to conserve resources, extend habitat, and create a sense of place. Conservation and plant science shape the program's offerings, and at the same time it strives to integrate horticulture into other CNPS programs.

CREATING COMMUNITY AT ALL LEVELS

We are now developing some exciting new offerings while supporting existing activities. Outreach materials and communication tools are key aspects of the program. A few offerings currently underway or planned for the future include native garden signage, surveys of landscaping practices, and toolkits for running symposia and other events. The garden signs will be attractive long-lasting aluminum promotional statements for CNPS and native plants. Imagine arriving in a new city and knowing you will see colorful signs in public and private gardens that alert you to the presence of native landscapes.

Our first survey is described below (under Chapters), and in the future we will track trends such as water use, which is an important issue throughout our chapters. Other information such as understanding where our members acquire plants (local nurseries, chapter plant sales, and through other channels) will help us to support gardeners new to the native plant world.

We will be producing toolkits with step-by-step instructions on how to set up registration systems for selling tickets at horticultural events, registering students, and allowing attendees to buy CNPS memberships; advertising and social media; and how to stay connected with participants afterward. We will have professional quality presentations that the chapters can tailor to their local plant palette, regional concerns, and audience, sponsors, and supporters. This will be supported by enhanced content about gardening on the CNPS website.



Pete Veilleux

A shade garden designed by Pete Veilleux, one of the only all-native entries in the 2014 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show (flickr.com/photos/eastbaywilds/; click on Albums, then East Bay Wild's Garden at...).

CHAPTERS

Each chapter has its own personality, strategy, and vision for the horticultural activities it offers. I am working to coordinate these things with what the organization offers. For example, we want to have available standard, easy-to-use presentations on a variety of horticultural topics that represent the different regions of California and Baja. These can be used in presentations to environmental groups, gardening clubs, civic organizations, and for special educational situations. These standardized horticultural presentations will be available to chapters to ensure that consistent information about our mission and strategy is provided, while allowing use of local information and examples to keep them relevant and practical.

We have plans for a speakers bureau, but also want to provide chapters materials to train their own volunteer speakers so that when opportunities come up to speak at events as varied as a Rotary Club or a restoration group, we will have accurate and engaging presentations. Additionally, we want to help update

(continued on page 6)



From the Executive Director

Being prepared for opportunities

It was a good spring. I didn't get out as much as I should have, but what I saw was wonderful! I was awed by abundant desert flowers near Newberry Springs. I swooned before lush flower fields carpeting the oak woodlands west of Glenville. I was shocked at how many Sacramento vacant lots sheltered populous purple swards of Tritelia, apparently waiting for a year like this to emerge and feed the woodcutter bees. I heard others reporting that 2014 was special, forbaceous, glorious.

Spring 2014 also brought a succession of emergency declarations from Governor Brown, suspending environmental laws in the name of drought. There are lessons here. First, drought may not be the greatest threat to California plants. Indeed, an extreme year may simply be a special year, bringing forth plants not seen in decades–California's plants evolved over eons of variable weather and can teach us much about resilience and persistence. A greater threat may be our response to drought—low rainfall is not as harmful as fast-tracked dams and wide-swath fuel breaks. Second, there is a lesson about making use of opportunity.

Governor Brown has made remarkable use of a dry winter, successfully promoting his pet projects. Fortunately, we have also seen increased appreciation for drought-tolerant native plant gardening, giving CNPS an opportunity to spread the word and share the joy. What more could we do?

This spring I saw countless hills red with dead *Erodium*—filaree plants that died before reproducing, curling as they dried to expose their red underside. Vast expanses of California that once hosted wildflowers are now dominated by this single species, and history has shown this is a great opportunity for a pathogen that can colonize, consume, and spread. Someday invasive *Erodium* will experience a catastrophic population crash, whether due to natural host-pathogen dynamics, our actions, or vagaries of climate. Will this be an opportunity to promote recolonization by native plants, or will we watch as the *Erodium* dies and the bare dirt is reoccupied by some other aggressive invader?

Dan Gluesenkamp
Executive Director

Announcing New Staff

Becky Reilly is CNPS's new Events Coordinator, and her tasks include organizing and supporting CNPS conferences, workshops, meetings, and other events. She earned her BA in psychology from Eckerd College, and has since gained experience in both marketing and event planning. Becky moved to the West Coast in 2013, and enjoys exploring her new home state every chance she gets. She is very interested in learning more about California's native plants, and plans to see many of them by camping in the mountains and going to the beach, two activities she loves.



Becky Reilly

Shanna Goebel is the new CNPS Sales and Administrative Assistant. Shanna attended San Joaquin Delta College where she studied psychology, and was accepted as one of the school's elite Delta Singers with whom she performed and toured for several years. Shanna comes to CNPS after six years as a senior advisor with Apple and five years with AT&T as a support and billing expert. An avid hockey fan, Shanna enjoys contributing to the charity events held by the San Jose Sharks Foundation, and is excited to work for another great cause—CNPS.



Shanna Goebel

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Register Now for the CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference

Take advantage of early-bird discounts

Registration opens July 15 for the CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference, "Celebrating 50 Years of Progress and Promise," being held January 15–17, 2015 in San Jose, California. Register online now at cnps.org/2015 and save $50 on your three-day conference pass. Early-bird registration discounts will be available through October 31.

From the CNPS website you will also be able to register for all pre-conference workshops and field trips (January 13–14), the banquet (January 16), and to reserve a hotel room with discounts—while they last—through our room block at the conference venue, the DoubleTree by Hilton.

If you want to understand more about the conservation of our native flora, this will be the place to be January 13–17, 2015. Although it is six months away, here are some things you need to do now:

- **Register!** Receive early registration discounts through Oct. 31.
- **Submit your abstract** by July 10.
- **Sponsor** the conference-pledge now and maximize your exposure.
- **Donate** to the Silent Auction: art, vacation rentals, crafts, books, etc.
- **Donate** a little more money to support student attendance.
- Submit **photos** and **artwork** for juried exhibits.
- **Write something** for the poetry reading.
- **Volunteer** on a committee or to help during the conference (registration rebates available).

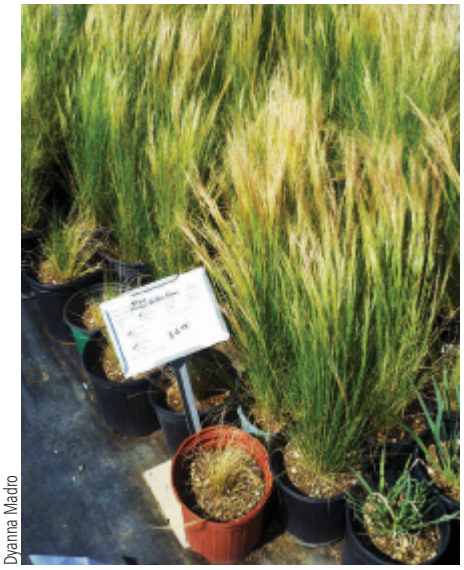
Josie Crawford, CNPS
Education Program Director

PlantRight Raises Awareness About Invasive Ornamental Plants

PlantRight is an initiative led by the nonprofit group Sustainable Conservation that partners with California's private sector to promote environmental solutions that make business sense. Since 2005, PlantRight has worked to address the introduction of invasive plants through California's horticultural trade. By working with a diverse alliance of stakeholders, PlantRight has been able to tackle this important issue in a collaborative, voluntary, and science-based fashion—all in a way that makes environmental and economic sense.

PlantRight has developed a variety of resources for industry professionals that we believe CNPS members will be interested in:

Continuing Education: A free, online continuing education program is now available for avid gardeners, landscape professionals, and those in the nursery trade. The program caters to individuals with a range of existing plant knowledge and offers an opportunity to strengthen one's familiarity with California's horticultural invasive plants. After reviewing the training materials and taking a short quiz, participants gain access to resources for promoting noninvasive plants in their own communities. You can complete this online training in less than one hour by visiting plantright.org/continuing-education.



Dyanna Madro

PlantRight recently took a preventative stance by adding Mexican feather grass *(Nassella tenuissima)* to its list of invasive horticultural plants in California.

Retail Nursery Partnership: PlantRight is partnering with retail nurseries across the state that commit to selling only noninvasive plants (as prescribed by PlantRight's list). In exchange, stores receive free staff training, various resources, and promotional opportunities. CNPS members who complete the above-mentioned continuing education program will receive access to materials for spreading the word to their local nurseries.

New Plant List: PlantRight has updated its plant list for 2014, which now lists 11 native plants as alternatives to invasive ornamental ones. To view the updated list, visit plantright.org/map. A printable version is available at the bottom of the webpage.

PlantRight's list is a good starting point for understanding where certain ornamental plants are invasive in California. If you have feedback or recommendations of additional native alternatives, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at plantright@suscon.org. You can also stay informed at Facebook.com/PlantRight, and at Twitter.com/_PlantRight.

Greg Richardson
PlantRight Project Manager

CHAPTER NEWS

BAJA CHAPTER:
Protecting rare plants

In January of this year the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) of the Mexican federal government invited all interested parties to present proposals to add new species to an updated list of species-at-risk in Mexico. The proposals needed to use a format called MER, or the Method of Evaluation of Risk of Extinction of Plants, which requires extensive background information on the species, number, and size of remaining populations, and any documented decline in range.

The Baja California chapter of CNPS (also known as the Sociedad de Plantas Nativas de Baja California) responded immediately to this challenge, and began the laborious process of gathering data to petition for the inclusion of some of the region's most threatened species. Thanks to the support of the Jiji Foundation's Baja California program, funding was available to support Gabriela Corona and others from the chapter in writing and submitting proposals, as well as offering a workshop on the MER process and the types of documentation that need to be collected in support of future MERs.

The following endemic species are currently under consideration for inclusion. Some do not have common names: *Adenothamnus validus*, a rare paleo-endemic; spikeweed (*Centromadia perennis*), a vernal pool species; San Martín Island goosefoot (*Chenopodium flabellifolium*); Anthony's liveforever (*Dudleya anthonyi*); *Dudleya anomala; Dudleya formosa; Dudleya campanulata;* and San Diego button celery and Moran's navarretia (*Eryngium aristulatum* var. *parishii* and *Navarretia fossalis*), two threatened vernal pool species.



Sula Vanderplank



Sula Vanderplank

Left: Anthony's liveforever *(Dudleya anthonyi)* on the volcanic rock of the San Quintín Bay. Right: San Martin Island goosefoot *(Chenopodium flabellifolium)*, left, and its non-native weed "cousin," Nettle-leaved goosefoot (*Chenopodium murale),* right.

Sula Vanderplank, Gabriela Corona, Matt Guilliams, and Cesar García, Baja California Chapter

YERBA BUENA CHAPTER:
Photo documentation

Artist Margo Bors started photographing local landscapes and flora for the Yerba Buena Chapter around 1990 and at the same time started keeping records about her photos. As soon as possible after each photo outing, she enters key information onto the digital images and into the chapter database, including location, date, family, genus, and species. The database also includes a place for additional comments.

Margo uses an Epson scanner to create electronic files of prints, negatives, and old slides, and has also added them to the database. For plant identification, chapter rare plant cochair Michael Wood's checklists of plants of local natural areas have been invaluable. The database now contains over 4,800 entries, which makes locating specific images for plant sales, newsletters, outreach activities, and conservation work quick and easy.

San Francisco's limited open space and natural areas are under constant pressure from developers and politicians. Because of this, there is a continuing need for images of every sort for public outreach and education. Chapter member Greg Gaar has a photo collection of San Francisco historical landscapes that have been especially helpful in this regard, and are stored in his own database.

Margo has recently added graphic fields to the chapter database so she can easily create layouts with images for items such as plant sale signage and plant lists for specific areas. In addition, Margo has contributed about 480 images to CalPhotos, the University of California's online digital library, and often fills requests from conservation groups such as Audubon or various park districts around the state to use particular images from the site for educational purposes.



Margo Bors

The locally rare yellow mariposa lily *(Calochortus luteus)* as documented by photographer Margo Bors. A few years ago one of the two sites in San Francisco of this rare lily was "remediated" by PG&E and the surface stripped, so it appears only one population may now remain.

Lichens Added to CNPS Inventory

After several meetings held by the CNPS Rare Plant Program and the California Lichen Society's (CALS) Conservation Committee, lichens on the *CALS List of Lichens of Concern* have now been incorporated into the *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants*.

For many years rare lichens have been included in the California Natural Diversity Database, a resource maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that is fundamental to the conservation of many organisms. So it made sense to add rare lichens to the CNPS Inventory as well. Congratulations to CALS for raising the funds needed to make this change possible. This is a momentous event that all plant (and lichen) lovers can now celebrate!



Martin Hutten

Fringed chocolate chip lichen *(Solorina spongiosa)* was recently added to California Rare Plant Rank 2B.2 of the CNPS Inventory. It occurs throughout cooler or higher elevation portions of Europe, Asia, and North America, but is only known from a single occurrence in California in the southern Sierra Nevada. (Measurement bar is 5 mm with 1 mm divisions.)

Aaron Sims,
CNPS Rare
Plant Botanist

Opportunities to Serve at State Level

New people bring fresh perspectives

This September 2014, elections will be held for the CNPS Chapter Council and Board of Directors. These bodies create policy and provide direction that helps CNPS realize its mission.

CNPS has a very democratic election procedure. Any CNPS member in good standing can self-nominate with a letter of support from their local chapter board or the support of five CNPS members. Positions open this year for self-nomination on the Chapter Council include Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for one-year terms. Positions open this year for self-nomination on the CNPS Board of Directors include Vice President, Treasurer, Directors, and Council Representative for two-year terms.

These positions offer CNPS members a unique opportunity to guide our organization in protecting California's wonderful native plants. More information about the self-nomination process is available at cnps.org/cnps/admin/ (under Governance and Structure/Self Nominations and Elections).

If you have questions you'd like to discuss about any of these openings, please contact me at david@hjuliendesigns.com.

David Bigham, Vice President
CNPS Board of Directors

In Appreciation: Kathleen Russell

Memorial gifts to CNPS

There are many ways to give a gift to CNPS. Many people generously respond to our biannual appeals or to special campaigns. A few generous people prepare in advance to make a significant gift to CNPS through their estate upon their passing. Understandably a bequest is not always a feasible option for every individual and family. Memorial gifts offer an alternative way to honor the memory of a loved one, friend, or community member, and can be designated to benefit CNPS.

Although it is always sad to learn that someone has passed away, we are always touched by members whose obituaries request that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to CNPS. One remarkable member in particular, Kathleen Russell, has had over $1,000 in donations contributed in her memory in less than a month after her passing.

Those who knew Kathleen are not surprised that CNPS was one of the organizations she selected for contributions. A nurse by trade, and an avid volunteer for progressive causes, Kathleen aspired to be an engaged and active citizen, and was an inspiration to all whose lives she touched. In her retirement, she helped organize meals for members of her church who were in need, and devoted countless hours cultivating her beloved garden, adding more and more native plants with each passing year.



Andrew Russell

Kathleen Russell

CNPS is genuinely honored that one of Kathleen's final wishes was to direct donations to CNPS, and truly grateful for her loved ones who chose to commemorate such a unique and wonderful woman.

Stacey Flowerdew, Membership and Development Coordinator

A Vision for the CNPS Horticulture Program

(from page 1)



Pete Veilleux

Cliff maids *(Lewisia cotyledon)* make a beautiful addition to a native plant shade garden.

plant lists maintained by CNPS and its chapters, ensuring that current botanical names are accurate and that the chapter lists are as localized as possible.

At Chapter Council meetings, I have started a dialogue about how to improve what we are doing, both at the state and chapter levels. In order to begin to evaluate our programs and activities on gardens, gardening, and horticulture, at the most recent meeting I asked the Chapter Council delegates to provide feedback on three simple questions as a starting point: What are the top three iconic species in your local area? What species do you see most frequently in landscaped areas, both public and private? What are some great local public gardens that feature native plants, whether at shopping malls, water utilities, bank buildings, or others? The results so far have been fascinating. Many have listed plants like toyon *(Heteromeles arbutifolia)*, yet chapters also noted specific regional signature plants like pipevine *(Aristolochia californica)*. Once we assemble this data, we will post it on the CNPS website. So far over 20 chapters have responded. If your chapter would like to add its responses to these questions, please email me at skrzywicki@cnps.org.

STATE AND BAJA PENINSULA

We are designing CNPS horticultural programs to explore the science behind our horticultural practices and to implement practical programs. Symposia, workshops, studies, papers, and other forums for interaction will allow us to hammer out the big issues.

CNPS also has an organization-wide Horticulture Committee that has been remobilized, and we have started holding monthly conference calls. We have also already crafted our mission statement.



Susan Krzywicki

Some new planned communities, such as this one south of San Diego in Chula Vista, California, are landscaping their common areas with water-conserving native plants.

PARTNERING

Finally, we are also connecting with other organizations. An excellent example of this was our concerted, cross-chapter efforts to show off native plants and habitat gardening at The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show held this past March. This is one of the top ten US horticultural events (*USA Today*, March 2013), and our team ensured that there was a strong native plant presence at this important event. As part of our cooperative endeavor, Pete Veilleux, an East Bay landscaper and nursery owner, created a native plant shade-loving demonstration garden; Kathy Kramer arranged a slate of speakers including Southern California authors Lucy Warren and Greg Rubin, and Bay Area landscape architect Sherri Osaka; and the Yerba Buena Chapter tabled alongside PlantRight, an organization that advocates for the removal of invasive non-native plants from California nurseries (see article on page 3 of this issue). Sherri's response after the show was that it provided "a great experience and I would do it again in a heartbeat."

Of course we will need to raise funds to support these CNPS Horticulture Program initiatives, and we count on generous donations from you, our members, to do so. Recently several chapters have contributed to a horticulture matching fund started by the South Coast chapter, and we thank them for their commitment. To donate, go to cnps.org/, click on Donate, select an amount, and in the Designation drop-down box select Horticulture Program.

Susan Krzywicki is the Horticulture Program Director for CNPS. She has been a native plant landscape designer in San Diego as well as chair of the San Diego Surfrider Foundation Ocean Friendly Gardens Committee.

Native Plant Gardens of CNPS Members

Jessica Kolman, Pinole, CA

When we bought our house in 2002, the front yard was buried in waist-deep ivy. For years I didn't know what to do but would occasionally notice articles promoting the benefits of native gardening. And because I was a very bad gardener, I was drawn to the idea of working with plants that had spent millennia getting used to the local conditions.

I purchased a book called *California Native Plants for the Garden* (Bornstein, Fross, O'Brien) and was soon lost in reading it from cover to cover, underlining passages and scribbling notes. It was the gospel and I was born again. I'm not sure why its impact was so strong, but psychological studies suggest that too much choice leads to unhappiness, so I believe defining a set of plant options greatly boosted my motivation. Also, I started seeing these plants on hikes, and I realized that bringing them into my life was a way to deepen my relationship with the place where I was living.

Armed with the book's inspiration, a pair of clippers, and a mattock, I chopped away at the ivy from spring through fall of 2008. By late fall the soil was clear and the driveway loaded with one- and five-gallon plants that I had collected with the help of a knowledgeable local nurseryman.

My goal was to fashion a living celebration of California, so I included species from all over the state. Though I now see the value of using only regional natives, I don't regret casting a wider net because many of the nonlocal plants have been among the strongest performers.

I placed plants according to conditions, and the shaded portion of the yard contains mostly plants grown from seed that was collected from a wooded open space less than two miles away. This community includes bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*), mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*), potentilla (*Drymocallis glandulosa*), rush (*Juncus patens*), columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), and others. There is also a collection of Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) that have produced seedlings, and I've heard that crosses between irises can create new flower colors—I'm looking forward to finding out.



Jessica Kolman

Springtime color in the yard includes a mix of clarkias that reseed faithfully each year, along with perennial salvias and woolly bluecurls *(Trichostema lanatum)*.

In the full sun area, a fleet of faithfully reseeding wildflowers treats the neighborhood to color every spring. Permanent plants include a manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita* 'St. Helena') and an understory of buckwheat (various *Eriogonum* species), coyote mint (*Mondardella villosa*), and penstemon (*Penstemon heterophyllus*). Several *Salvia* species are interspersed for height variation and heat hardiness. Among the most delightful plants have been two woolly bluecurls (*Trichostema lanatum*), which were planted from gallons but grew at least fivefold in their first year. They are woody and leggy now, and near the end of their marvelous lives. However, I've made cuttings of them to help me keep close the joy of that first spring when I would meet people in the neighborhood who would stop to ask me about my flowers.



Jessica Kolman

The mid-summer yard is mellow, with the yellow of drying sulphur buckwheat *(Eriogonum umbellatum)* flowers, golden aster *(Heterotheca sessiliflora),* and annual madia *(Madia elegans).* An existing tree trunk was left for added interest and habitat value.

I've witnessed the lifecycles of all of these plants for five years and can hardly believe I used to complain about rain and thought California didn't have seasons. I've counted 36 bird and 7 reptile species in the yard. The great western writer Wallace Stegner wrote often about sense of place. He defined "placed people" as "lovers of known earth, known weathers, and known neighbors both human and nonhuman." While I didn't initially become interested in native gardening to become a "placed person," I like to think that has been the result.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BULLETIN
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The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants and plant communities. Membership is open to all. Visit cnps.org

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Next Chapter Council Meeting

(Details available at: http://cnps.org/cnps/admin/cc/)

SEPTEMBER 5–7, 2014 – BIG PINE
HOST CHAPTER: BRISTLECONE



Photo of *Encelia*opsis *cowlei*, the CNPS logo plant, by Steve Ingram at www.ingramphoto.com

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