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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BULLETIN

CNPS Establishes Statewide Landscaper Certification Program

By Hei-ock Kim

CNPS is leading a partnership to create the first comprehensive statewide training and certification program for professionals who landscape with California native plants. Under the supervision of Hei-ock Kim, CNPS Special Projects Coordinator, a team of seven volunteers with a wide range of expertise related to native landscaping is designing a curriculum that addresses all the basic principles of native plant ecology, site preparation, soils, maintenance, watering, and pest management.

Partnering organizations have committed to providing curriculum review, marketing, classroom facilities, and more. The ever-growing list of partners includes key stakeholders, such as the California Landscape Contractors Association, Caltrans, UC Integrated Pest Management, and numerous other public and water agencies, botanic gardens, landscape educational programs, nonprofits, businesses, and school districts.

The program targets all landscape professionals, public and water agency staff, students and faculty in college horticulture programs, and maintenance staff for school districts and nurseries.

HELPING NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPES ACHIEVE WIDESPREAD SUCCESS

California native landscapers have experienced increasing success over the last 20 years. However, many professionals are still untrained in best practices of native plant care, and are perpetuating pest and disease problems by applying conventional gardening methods to natives. By standardizing professional education, we aim to 1) train a large number of California landscape professionals to produce thriving native landscapes, and 2) reduce urban water and pesticide use, misuse, and runoff.

SOME PROGRAM DETAILS

The Landscaper Certification Program will initially be offered three times a year in various locations throughout Northern, Central, and South-

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These passionate experts have volunteered hundreds of hours creating California's first standardized curriculum for native plant care and maintenance. In order from top left: Frank Simpson, Mike Evans, Ellen Mackey, Vic Claassen, Nick Basinski, Chris Soltis, Orchid Black.

Photos: Frank Simpson, Hilda Evans, Jason Casanova, Matt Claassen, Katie Basinski, Vicki Abney, David King

Dealing With Emergent Invasive Weeds

By David Pryor

Weeds in the garden, we all have them—in the front yard and in our open-space preserves. Entrenched species like black mustard *(Brassica nigra)* seem like a lost cause, and we've given up trying to control them unless there are funds available for removal and restoration. But what about new occurrences of invasive weeds in our open space areas?

Years ago, the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) set early detection and control of emergent invasives as its highest priority. Encouraged by the thought of being able to win a weedy battle, and with help from a Cal-IPC board member in 2013, the Invasives Committee of the Orange County Chapter of CNPS formed a plant list of 18 likely new trespassers from the surrounding area that have invasive tendencies. Since then, a 19th invasive has been added to the list.

The Orange County Invasive Plant Management Program offers the following definition for such weeds: "Emergent invasive plants are non-native species that have appeared recently in Orange County, are not yet widely distributed here, and are known to spread readily." For

(continued on page 6)



From the Executive Director

Gratitude

As I write this we are preparing for yet another spring rain. It's one of those years, a year in which the natives get a great start and then are watered at just the right interval to crank out an abundance of seeds over the season. Obviously it is also a dry year, and not every part of California was blessed with fantastic wildflower displays—but many parts were. That's California for you, and I feel thankful to live in a place where every year is a great year, somewhere.

I'm thankful that thousands of Californians are suddenly inspired to kill their lawns and plant natives, and I'm thankful they are turning to CNPS for help, though I confess it's keeping us busy! As always, chapters are the first responders to a public seeking answers: garden tour attendance is doubling, plant sales are selling out, and the exploding demand for native plant gardening lecturers, designers, and installers has made our people more popular than *Galvezia* at a hummingbird convention.

It's a good time to be CNPS! We are all thankful for the opportunities that CNPS is being given to make a difference, and especially thankful to the hundreds of tremendously dedicated volunteers who keep CNPS relevant and make CNPS fun. I give good odds that you have probably helped, that you led a field trip, grew plants, helped a garden tour, mapped rare plants, commented on a bad development plan, supported a chapter, or just taught friends and neighbors. If so, then please accept my thanks. If not, I expect you probably will sometime so let me just thank you right now!

In 50 years, CNPS has had good times aplenty, but few could have been as good as these. Yes, we face a lot of challenges and the need has never been greater, but our Society is strong and getting better every day. I believe that the next few years are going to be absolutely remarkable.

Thank you!

Dan Gluesenkamp
CNPS Executive Director

Opportunities to Serve at State Level

When Mac Laetsch, CNPS's first president, looked out over the 2015 Conservation Conference banquet crowd, he remarked how surprising it was to see how his one year of service 50 years ago helped lead to this enthusiastic crowd of people dedicated to preserving California's native plants. Take a cue from Mac!



David Berman

CNPS's first president, Mac Laetsch, in a pensive moment at the CNPS 2015 Conservation Conference banquet.

This September 2015, 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.

Serving in statewide CNPS positions offers members a unique opportunity to guide our organization in protecting California's wonderful native plants. More information about the self-nomination process and open Council and Board positions 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

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State Policy on Native Plants Approved

CNPS praised for its work

By Bob Hass

Another significant accomplishment for native plants has just occurred, and it could not have come at a more opportune moment given that this is the Society's 50th anniversary year. At its June 2015 meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) voted to approve a comprehensive State Policy on Native Plants. This landmark decision establishes practices that give native plants and habitats considerably stronger protection in California, and for the first time place them more on a par with wildlife.

How did this come about? For over a year now Greg Suba, Vern Goehring, and Dan Gluesenkamp have been working on this initiative. It first involved the painstaking process of developing the policy, including practices that the CFGC and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) would support and implement. Part of that process included working with CDFW staff and several key stakeholder groups to review it and make modifications, and then getting it on the CFGC agenda for a vote.

The new state policy describes native plants "as integral elements of the State's wildlife" and will help refine administrative and legislative actions on behalf of conserving native plants. Previously most state protections were focused on wildlife, but less on the plant habitats on which they depend. The policy mentions "the integrity of natural [plant] communities," using "proactive approaches that address both naturally occurring and human-induced stressors," and the need for "adequately trained and experienced" experts being available to CDFW.

Of particular note, the policy acknowledges that transplantation—the long-held state practice of mitigating threatened species by moving them to other protected areas in exchange for allowing development on lands containing such species—has been largely ineffectual over time because it has not ensured their survival. It also acknowledges the need to reexamine wild fire management practices such as fuels management and post-fire salvage and their impact on native plant conservation.

The Commissioners and CDFW Director Charlton Bonham had very positive things to say about the new policy, and applauded the professionalism of CNPS. They also complimented CNPS on its petition to have the rare Livermore tarplant *(Deinandra bacigalupii)* listed as "State Endangered," and voted unanimously to start its one-year status review.

According to Heath Bartosh, who presented the petition on behalf of the CNPS Rare Plant Program Committee, the Commissioners "applauded our efforts as being focused on quality and validity." Both he and Greg Suba had explained in detail about CNPS's robust vetting process and the organization's intention to present only "the most scientifically sound petitions." At the meeting, Bartosh told the Commissioners that CNPS will be submitting other petitions in the future, and one Commissioner replied, "Bring 'em on!"



Jeb Bjerke

A listing petition by CNPS for Livermore tarplant *(Deinandra bacigalupii)* as State Endangered was recently accepted by the state Fish and Game Commission. Its one-year status review has already begun. The plant was named after CNPS Fellow Remo Charles Bacigalupi, former curator of The Jepson Herbarium (1950–1968). Heath Bartosh deserves tremendous thanks for putting in years of work to develop the listing petition.

Bob Hass is editor of the *CNPS Bulletin* and *Fremontia*.

Welcome Mona Robison

Rare Plant Program now has a manager

In early May Mona Robison began work as the new CNPS Rare Plant Program Manager—just in time to make sure the 2015 Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) trips are a great success. In addition to managing the RPTH, Mona is tasked with supporting many exciting new special projects within the Rare Plant Program (RPP), including implementing the new strategic plan.



Mona Robison

Mona Robison.

Mona has a BA in botany and PhD in plant biology from the University of California, Davis. She most recently worked with California State Parks in Sacramento, coordinating with parks statewide to improve plant mapping, teach early detection of weeds, and support natural resource management. Prior to that she worked as an environmental consultant for over 15 years. Best of all, Mona is a long-time member of CNPS and has served in many positions with the CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter, and on the CNPS State Board. This is the first time in CNPS history that the Rare Plant Program has had three full-time positions (Aaron Sims, Danny Slakey, and now Mona). We hope you will join us in welcoming Mona to this exciting new position as part of the CNPS RPP Dream Team!

Aaron Sims, CNPS Rare Plant Botanist

CHAPTER NEWS

NORTH SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CHAPTER:
Birth of a school native plant garden

California native plant demonstration gardens are an integral part of the educational and horticultural missions of CNPS, and are the primary focus of our chapter.



Jim Brugger

White sage *(Salvia apiana)* (foreground), and the grassland habitat area (middle and right), one of five habitat zones of a new native plant demonstration garden at Merrill West High School in Tracy. Local CNPS members have helped students and teachers with design and planting.

When Amy Thorpe and Marlene Hepner, the agriculture teachers and Future Farmers of America (FFA) advisors at Merrill F. West High School in Tracy, received a $2,000 grant to build a California native plant garden, they contacted the North San Joaquin Valley Chapter of CNPS to ask for help with the design and implementation of the project. The chapter responded immediately and enthusiastically agreed to help.

The garden site is approximately 100' by 80', in full sun, and is surrounded by a parking lot, athletic field, tennis courts, and the school's greenhouse and vegetable garden. Except for an existing weeping willow tree at the southeast corner, the site was covered with invasive weeds, and had very hard, compacted soil.

I came up with a design that has five distinct zones: riparian, Native American, pollinator, Valley grassland, and desert. The Valley grassland zone was sloped to allow runoff from the surrounding hardscape to flow to an existing storm drain. Wide pathways divide the five zones and provide easy access to all parts of the garden.

With guidance from Ms. Thorpe and Ms. Hepner, students worked hard to excavate the walkways, remove weeds, and prepare for planting. Our chapter donated about 100 plants to the project, and chapter members helped the students install most of the plants. Students designed and built the irrigation system and the bridges, and will provide ongoing weeding and maintenance. In the works are interpretive signs and other features to make the garden an educational destination for the entire school district.

This project is an excellent example of the strong partnerships that can be formed between CNPS chapters and their local communities.

Jim Brugger, President
North San Joaquin Valley Chapter

SANHEDRIN CHAPTER:
Small but impressive

Like a number of the smaller CNPS chapters, the Sanhedrin Chapter serves a large territory—Lake and inland Mendocino Counties. It is always a challenge finding enough members to help so that long-time and new active members are not overworked.

Despite those challenges, we are accomplishing quite a lot. We produce a newsletter worthy of perusal by members from other chapters. Of particular note in the February 2015 issue is an excellent article on the 2015 CNPS Conservation Conference by Geri Hulse-Stephens,

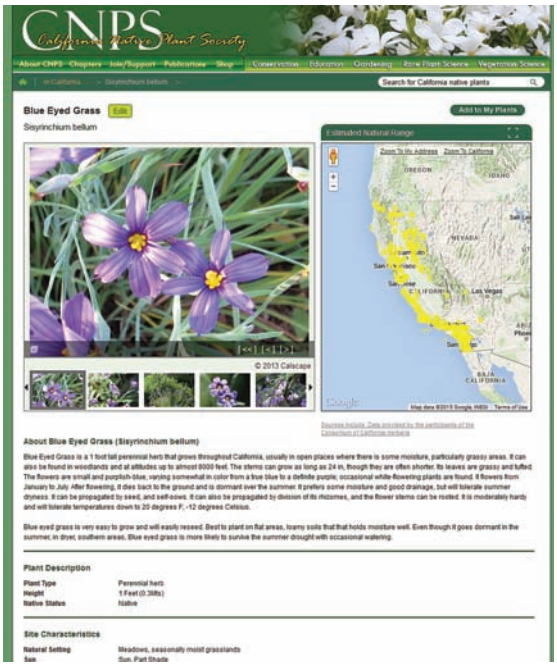


This illustration of yerba buena *(Clinopodium douglasii)* by Margaret Warriner Buck from the book *The Wildflowers of California*, accompanies a chapter newsletter article on the plant by Cathy Monroe.

and an informative short book review by Gail Johnson on Judith Larner Lowry's *Gardening With a Wild Heart*.

Over 60 people showed up for the chapter's first meeting this year on edible and medicinal plants of California. We cosponsored a second meeting with the local Audubon chapter on California grasses, featuring botanist James P. Smith, with a field trip a month later to identify grasses along Lake Mendocino. Our chapter also sponsored ten field trips during the spring wildflower season. We are gearing up for our 2015–16 season with more field trips, public meetings, and our first Rare Plant Treasure Hunt.

Allison Rofe, Co-President
Sanhedrin Chapter



Calscape can search for locally appropriate plants based on California addresses. Each plant profile provides description information, growing requirements, availability, and estimated natural range.

CNPS Launches Calscape to Help People Save Water and Restore Nature

As more Californians remove their thirsty lawns, CNPS now offers gardeners a way not only to save water, but also to help, albeit in a small way, to restore California's native habitat.

A new software tool called Calscape, available on the CNPS website at calscape.com, allows anyone to easily find and see the plants that grow naturally in their area. Just enter your street address and you will receive a native plant list appropriate for your garden from among the 3,000 plants in the database. Then you can use the site to get detailed plant descriptions, as well as information on growing requirements and nursery availability. The site also contains thousands of plant photographs.

Calscape was created by CNPS member and Web developer Dennis Mudd, who generously donated his time and expertise to the project. The site is a work-in-progress, and eventually the Jepson Horticultural Database will be incorporated into it.

We are continuing to add to the CNPS Calscape plant profiles. If you would like to contribute your knowledge and expertise, please email Caroline Garland at cgarland@cnps.org.

Hei-ock Kim
CNPS Special Projects Coordinator

In Appreciation: Alicia Funk

Advocate for culinary and medicinal uses of native plants

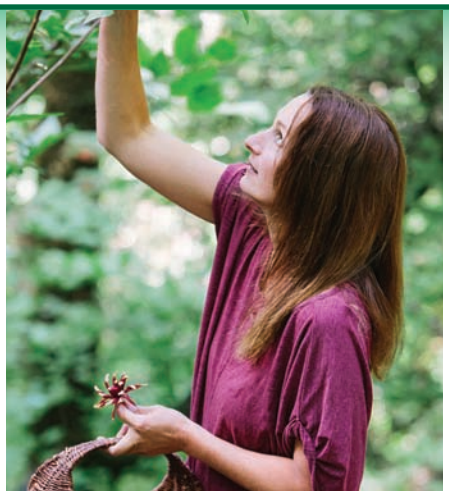
By now, Alicia Funk should be a name familiar to CNPS members and native plant aficionados far and wide. As founder of The Living Wild Project, Alicia has become a one-woman revolutionary force. She has passionately promoted both environmental sustainability and knowledge of our native plant communities by encouraging that we re-engage with our local landscapes and incorporate the intrinsic wealth of medicinal and culinary uses of native plants into our daily lives.

By becoming an expert on wild plants and their traditional uses by indigenous people, her research has led her on the path promoting the use, cooking, and gardening of nutritional and medicinal plants through her talks, workshops, demonstrations, and writing.

She started her journey 25 years ago by learning plant-based medicine in the Ecuadorian rainforest from an indigenous grandmother, before working for 20 years publishing textbooks on the safety and science behind plant-based medicine.

Since moving to the Sierra Nevada foothills community of Nevada City in 2004, her work has largely concentrated on the abundance of edible and medicinal plants readily available and underutilized by our modern society, just outside our doors here in California.

Alicia coauthored *Living Wild: Gardening, Cooking and Healing with Native Plants of California* (available through CNPS's online store), now in its second edition. Recently she gave CNPS an extremely generous gift—all proceeds from the sales of this book to date—and will continue to do so annually. To quote Alicia, "I'm donating all of the profits from *Living Wild* to CNPS, because their work is our future. With the drought and climate change, the plant habitats we love and our own food supply are threatened. The work of CNPS supports the heritage and future biodiversity of California."



Ingrid Nelson

Alicia Funk collects "oak nuts" (acorns) and spicebush flowers on her property overlooking the South Yuba River in Nevada County.

CNPS continues to be amazed and inspired by Alicia as she motivates and electrifies the public on the uses of native plants, and is grateful for her generosity to our organization.

Stacey Flowerdew, CNPS Membership and Development Coordinator

Landscaper Certification Program

(from page 1)

ern California. Classroom time will span 24 hours over three weeks, include hands-on training, and require memorization of region-specific plant lists. Students will then enter a year-long mentoring period that will culminate in a final exam. This exam will be pass/fail, and those who pass will be eligible to receive the CNPS Landscaper Certification.

In order to be awarded the certification, all students who use pesticides in their work will need, or have to apply for, a Qualified Applicators Certificate issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

With the help of the CNPS Baja Chapter, we will also be offering the certification program in Spanish. By doing so, we hope to connect Spanish-speaking landscape professionals to the larger native plant landscaping community. This will help to increase their access to important information regarding native landscaping and pesticide regulations that they often miss due to the language barrier.

CNPS.org will feature many online resources for participants once they are certified, including a job board, and the opportunity to maintain a professional profile page that is tied to a publicly searchable database of California landscapers.

STAY INFORMED

The CNPS Landscaper Certification is expected to launch in the summer of 2015, and is supported in part by Metropolitan Water District, Western Municipal Water District, Irvine Ranch Water District, and the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District. To receive updates about the program, and to learn more about the curriculum, prospective fee schedule, and other program information, visit the Gardening section at CNPS.org.

Hei-ock Kim is CNPS Special Projects Coordinator. She brings with her 13 years in the nonprofit world and a lifetime of advocating for the arts and the environment.

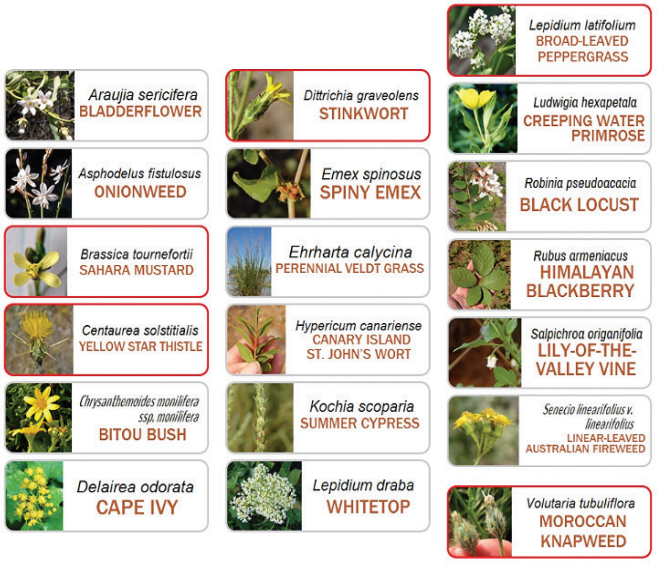
Emergent Invasive Weeds

(from page 1)

each species meeting this definition on our chapter list we developed descriptive PDFs with photos, identifying characteristics, as well as information and images of other species readily confused with the target ones, and posted these on the chapter website (occnps.org/Invasives.html).

Once an alert and search request went out to members, field reports flowed in. Within the first week, we received photos of an unknown invasive species, and after field verification, a small population of approximately 200 plants were removed in an organized weed pull. We learned that the culprit was the North African invasive species, Moroccan knapweed *(Volutaria tubuliflora)*, which was stopped from spreading and was included as a new occurrence for the county.

So far our chapter has responded to one other invader, stinkwort *(Dittrichia graveolens)*. Reported last November by chapter member Bob Allen, the small population was about to set seed. By the next weekend, a team from Orange County Parks, Irvine Ranch Conservancy, and chapter volunteers counted, mapped, pulled, and bagged the population of about 1,000 plants. Chapter members will monitor and report on this population over the next several years.



The Orange County Chapter's list of 19 newly discovered weeds with invasive tendencies, available on the chapter website.

Our chapter's invasive plant reporting protocol asks members to document observations of each site with photos, GPS location, number of plants, date, landowner, and a collected sample. It also includes an important reminder about the importance of cleaning footwear and clothing after being in the field. Species descriptions for use in the field can be printed or downloaded to a smartphone, aided by links to Calflora and Cal-IPC.

Instead of walking by unknown "weedy looking" species along roads, parking areas, and trailheads, our chapter members are helping to identify these invaders before they set seeds and spread further. Stopping emergent weeds early on can make a tremendous difference in preventing the loss of valuable native habitat, and in saving time and resources that could be better used for other things. According to Ron Vanderhoff, our chapter weed master, "We can quickly respond to small, new weed infestations before they become too large and problematic."

David Pryor is a board member of the Orange County Chapter.

Native Plant Gardens of CNPS Members

Denise Louie, San Francisco

In 2011 I visited a neighbor's hillside garden and learned it contained native plants. This inspired me to begin to increase the native habitat on my own property. Since I began the redesign in 2011, I've found about a dozen volunteer native plants. On a lower slope of thin soil, I found polypody (*Polypodium californicum*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*), hairy wood rush (*Luzula comosa*), and California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*). Farther uphill, where the soil is deeper, I found a 15-foot toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), wild cucumber (*Marah fabaceus*), woodland sanicle (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*).

My first challenge during the redesign process was access. A landscape contractor who co-owns a native plant nursery helped me build a 42-step suspended staircase on a relatively steep slope. He had a vision for my backyard that I would never have imagined. In quick order he built other box stairs, cleared weeds and overhanging pine tree branches from a neighbor's yard, planted natives local to San Francisco, and removed several tons of loose chert from a rockface.

We used red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), ribes (*Ribes sanguineum*), California fescue (*Festuca californica*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), to name a few, which add diversity of color, height, and texture. I now delight in the heavenly fragrance of sagebrush and wonder if this should be our state fragrance.

Since the remake, I've noticed a hawk roosting on the crest of my main slope. And with the added vegetation I've observed up to four different species of birds in my garden at one time, including mourning doves. Since I live near Glen Canyon, where Islais Creek runs, I've had damselflies come to visit. I've seen a few different butterflies, including the red admiral. And native bees love my coast buckwheat (*Eriogonum latifolium*) and poppies. Moths come in the evening to pollinate my soap plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) when in bloom. Now I think about habitat value when choosing new plants.



Margo Bors

Along Denise Louie's suspended staircase, farewell to spring *(Clarkia rubicunda)* and coast buckwheat, also called seaside buckwheat *(Eriogonum latifolium)*, bloom in summer months and attract many pollinators.

Ongoing challenges include weed removal by rappelling down about 50' on the lower slope and hand watering uphill 100'. The garden is now rid of ivy and Himalayan blackberry. I still see oxalis and chickweed. French broom may be around forever, but I recognize it when it first sprouts with two dark green leaves and immediately pull it.

I opened my garden to the Yerba Buena Chapter's Garden Tour in 2013, and was delighted when one of the participants identified an unnoticed plant for me—California brome (*Bromus carinatus*). A visitor told me she had now caught my passion for local native plants. In August 2013 Greg Gaar, author of *San Francisco: A Natural History*, was rather excited to see the clarkia, farewell to spring *(Clarkia rubicunda)*, in full bloom along my property line. These clarkia descended from a plant he grew at a former native plant nursery site in Golden Gate Park.

I love creating floral arrangements with the tall native bunchgrasses and brightly colored wildflowers in my garden. I also enjoy collecting, sharing, and propagating seeds of local native plants from the backyard. I frequently volunteer for habitat restoration projects so I can learn from experts and, with permission, collect small amounts of seed from native plants that grow in nearby open spaces. Indeed, my idea of "my backyard" has grown expansively since 2011 when I first began gardening with plants native to this amazing place where I live.

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 11–13, 2015 – FORT BRAGG
HOST CHAPTER: DOROTHY KING YOUNG

California Native Shows Up on Romanian Stamp

How does a California native plant end up on a Romanian stamp? CNPS member Len Blumin was contacted in 2014 via email by Alec Bartos of Romania. Bartos had seen Blumin's photo on Flickr of the desert native rock hibiscus (*Hibiscus denudatus*) and requested use of the photo for a stamp design contest on desert flowers being held by his country's postal service. Blumin agreed, and was delighted when Bartos's digital design of the original photograph won and ended up as a Romanian postage stamp, along with three other desert flower designs.



This Romanian stamp, rock hibiscus (bottom right), is of a California native, based on a photograph taken by CNPS member Len Blumin.

As it turns out, Bartos is well-known among stamp collectors in Romania and Europe. He is an award-winning philatelic designer, as well as an accomplished painter and mixed media artist, and comes from a family of artists. He is currently president of the Commission for Astrophilately of the Romanian Philatelic Federation.

Len was introduced to California wildflowers on walks with Bob Stewart, then a Marin County naturalist. He has taken over 10,000 photos of California natives, and has contributed some to Calflora.



Nancy Gamble

Longtime CNPS supporters Patti and Len Blumin of the Marin CNPS Chapter.

Bob Hass, Editor
CNPS Bulletin and *Fremontia*