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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
BULLETIN

Golden Anniversary Round-Up



Why was 2015 different for CNPS? We kicked off with the best Conservation Conference, ever. We made remarkable progress in conservation, science, education, and advocacy on behalf of our native plants and their habitats. But there was one more thing that made 2015 special...

It was CNPS's 50th year of celebrating and saving California's plants and places! Last month, select CNPS members received a special letter that touched on 2015 highlights, and spotlighted our past presidents. *Hint*: in the rest of this article, see if you can spot the borrowed quotes from that letter, available online at www.cnps.org/goldenletter.



In 50 years, CNPS has grown from a handful in a living room to a vast multitude. Since then, together with talented staff and leadership, generous donors, and institutional and governmental supporters, this community has made CNPS the respected and influential organization it is today.

This issue of the *Bulletin* is full of exciting and timely news. You will read about CNPS's November victory at the California Supreme Court, a decision that that saves some very special plants. We also celebrate passage of Assembly Bill 559, which mandates protecting habitat for monarch butterflies, and a successful case in which the Orange Superior Court agreed with CNPS that cities should not approve sprawl development that violates their own planning policies. Such victories make CNPS probably the most effective conservation organization focused on native plants!

We didn't just make strides in protecting natural habitat in 2015—we also beautified public and private landscapes. The governor's office asked CNPS to help convert the State Capitol's lawns and gardens to beautiful waterwise landscapes featuring California natives. At chapter workshops, demos, and garden tours, we helped home gardeners, who are increasingly concerned about water conservation, with resources for converting thirsty home landscapes—often using native plants from CNPS plant sales. Outreach opportunities like these provide the teachable moments that made 2015 an exceptional year for spreading our message.

CNPS plant science also made big advances in 2015. The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) team began a rare-plant seed-collection project and special trainings to ensure that students have key job skills, and volunteers have what they need to make a difference.

The dozens of volunteers who joined RPTH expeditions join hundreds of CNPS members who are the foundation of all we do to protect native plants and their places.

The Rare Plant Program is just one example of the tools that CNPS provides to empower us to speak for the plants. In the next 50 years, we will just keep getting better and better. Your ongoing contributions of time, skill, money, and dedication make it all possible. You should feel proud of all that we have accomplished in this remarkable year. This is your CNPS and you are making a real and important difference!

CNPS Wins Again!

SUPREME COURT PROTECTS NATIVE PLANTS AT NEWHALL RANCH

By David L. Magney



David Magney

Santa Clara River looking downstream from an unpermitted ranch road crossing, in 1996. Unarmored three-spine stickleback are being illegally netted.

For 15 years, CNPS and allied organizations have been fighting to save a very large ranch and wonderfully special place in western Los Angeles County. On November 30, 2015, the California Supreme Court handed us a tremendous victory!

In the early 1990s, the Newhall Land and Farming Company proposed to build a new city ("Newhall Ranch") on the north slopes of the Santa Susana Mountains, west of Valencia and Magic Mountain. The original proposal consisted of 21,615 housing units on 4,835 acres, an 18-hole golf course, 13 parks, 7 schools, nearly 700 acres of mixed and commercial uses, 256 acres of business park, with arterial roads and community facilities, to serve a human population of 60,000. Plans have been revised since then, but the project remains enormous.

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From the Executive Director

50 Years of Inspiration

I clearly remember falling in love with *California's Wild Gardens*. I remember lying on the floor, reading the great descriptions, flipping the gorgeous pages, devouring the stunning photos, and thinking "*This* is it! *This* is what I want to do!" I was still a graduate student, close enough to finishing my degree that there was urgency to decide the course of my life, and that book showed me the way. I would become a conservationist and work with agencies, activists, and CNPS to save the world's most wonderful flora and most marvelous wild gardens.

For 50 years, CNPS has consistently produced remarkable books, magazines, and newsletters. We owe recognition and thanks to the authors, photographers, editors, and designers who share their knowledge and their talents. We owe thanks to Bob Hass, who for years edited the CNPS Bulletin, and to Barbara Wolf, who volunteered to bring together this special issue. We owe thanks to all the scientists, plant lovers, chapters, and (most of all) Phyllis Faber—who have blessed us with hundreds of valuable publications, enriched our field, and inspired thousands of Californians.

Recently, we have redoubled our publishing efforts. A new generation of books like *Rock Creek Wildflowers; Shrubs and Trees of Nevada and Placer Counties; Plants of Monterey County; Vascular Plants of Santa Cruz County;* and *Flora of Lava Beds National Monument* give a virtual tour of our wonderful state.

And the best is yet to come! This month we release the gorgeous coffee table/textbook, *California's Botanical Landscapes*. In many ways, this book is the successor to that original *Wild Gardens* book that showed me a career I could love. How many other careers will CNPS publications shape, how many other lives will we change?

Dan Gluesenkamp
CNPS Executive Director

CNPS Helps Capitol Save Our Water

BY CAROLINE GARLAND, CNPS HORTICULTURE COORDINATOR

The Governor's Office and California Department of General Services (DGS) invited CNPS and partners to bring the beauty of our native flora to the State Capitol grounds. On September 14, 2015, Save Our Water's *Fix it For Good* campaign broke ground for a Capitol landscape conversion project. Save Our Water is California's official water conservation education program. DGS held the demonstration to showcase its commitment to converting the Capitol's lawn and other high water-use areas to waterwise landscapes featuring California native plants, and to teach the public about sheet mulching. Sheet mulching removes your lawn, creates a weed barrier, and fortifies your existing soil, all without having to haul material to the landfill. It was also a great first step to prepare this site for planting native landscaping this spring!



The Capitol conversion begins.

CNPS CULTIVATES CONVERTS

The demonstration was accompanied by a small water conservation expo. The CNPS table attracted passersby with a beautiful array of native plants grown by the Sacramento Valley Chapter's Elderberry Farms Native Plant Nursery. They stopped to tell stories of their own landscape projects, get tips on gardening with California natives, and learn about upcoming chapter plant sales. CNPS staff encouraged their blooming interest in native plant horticulture with a plethora of resources. The launch of the *Fix it for Good* campaign also celebrated CNPS's partnership with Save Our Water. For more on this exciting partnership go to http://saveourwater.com/blog-posts/native-plants-in-spotlight-of-new-save-our-water-effort/. Stay tuned for more progress, coming this spring.

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For Love of Plants—Bob Muns at 90

By Cathy Rose

At age 90, Bob Muns, teacher and guide, creator of dozens of plant lists, and native plant enthusiast extraordinaire, has never stopped botanizing. "I have a mountain range a mile away," he says as he heads out from Arcadia to the base of the San Gabriel Mountains to examine the plants in his own territory.



Photograph courtesy of Cathy Rose

Bob Muns and Cathy Rose, Pebble Plains, 1993

For more than 50 years, Bob has quietly been creating booklets of annotated checklists of California native plants for over 30 trails and regions in the deserts, mountains, and coasts of Southern California. Each 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 booklet is bound with a paper cover illustrated with one of Bob's drawings. The plant lists, arranged by family, include a code with information such as the kind of plant, its habitat, and its frequency. Many of the checklists also contain keys, lists of endemic and endangered species, community indicator plants, and references. Bob created separate booklets about families, genera, and basic botany. Although some names have changed with the updated Jepson Manuals, the lists remain valuable summaries of the plants in many corners of California.

Bob invented an original font, an attractive combination of printing and writing. He produced his unique script with a calligraphy pen, but when the booklets proved popular, he shifted to an ordinary pen to gain speed. Bob has been generous with his lists, allowing any interested person to copy and use them.

Bob has returned to each area of study many times in different seasons. He is thorough in his approach, observing the tiniest of plants with tender interest. "Botanizing is slow," Bob remarked. "When I go out I don't care if I get anywhere." Nevertheless, Bob has led hundreds of walks and hikes . As one of his followers said, "Bob knows the plants by heart, and he loves to teach others. He doesn't miss one sprout along a trail, not even the weeds."

When Bob first led hikes, he used only the common names of the plants, but "there were always smart alecks who wanted the scientific names, and I learned them as I developed the booklets." Bob used illustrations to identify plants, relying on Abrams' *Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States* and McMinn's *Illustrated Manual of California Shrubs*, until he learned to use and write keys.

Bob remembers lectures by grand old botanists such as Philip Munz and Edmund Jaeger, but he particularly admired Oscar Clarke of the University of California, Riverside. "Oscar was a good friend. He was a real naturalist of the old school. He knew and tasted everything. He was one in a million. His energy, enthusiasm, and vast knowledge of birds, insects, and plants inspired us all. I'd advise young people to pursue all aspects of natural history, as Oscar did, before choosing a specialty."



WINTER CREEK AREA 6

A Check List of the Native Plants

		Plant Type				Trails			
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
35 POLYGONACEAE (BUCKWHEAT FAM)									
1 Eriogonum elongatum	• Wand Buckwheat 129								
2 E. fasciculatum	• Wild Buckwheat 130		S		A				
3 Pterostegia drymarioides	• Thread Stem 131								
36 POLYPODIACEAE (FERN FAM)									
1 Aspidotus californica	• Lace Fern 132			PU					
2 Dryopteris arguta	• Coast Wood Fern 133			P					
3 Pellaea andromedaefolia	• Coffee Fern 134			P					
4 Pityrogramma triangularis	• Goldback Fern 135			PU					
5 Polypodium californicum	• Calif. Polypody 136			PU					
6 Polystichum munitum	• Sword Fern 137			P					
7 Pteridium aquilinum	• Western Bracken 138			PU					
8 Woodwardia fimbriata	• Giant Chain Fern 139			P					
37 PORTULACACEAE (PURSLANE FAM)									
1 Montia perfoliata	• Miner's Lettuce 140				A				
38 PRIMULACEAE (PRIMROSE FAM)									
1 Anagallis arvensis	• Pimpernel 141				A				
39 RANUNCULACEAE (BUTTERCUP)									
1 Clematis	• Virgins Bower 142		S						
2 Delphinium cardinale	• Scarlet Larkspur 143			PU					
3 Delphinium	• Blue Larkspur 144			PU					
40 RHAMNACEAE (BUCKTHORN FAM)									
1 Ceanothus crassifolius	• Hoary Leaf Ceanothus 145		S						
2 C. leucodermis	• Chaparral White Thorn 146		S						
3 C. oliganthus	• Hairy Leaf Ceanothus 147		S						
4 Rhamnus californica	• Coffee Berry 148		S						

A page from one of Bob's handmade floras

Looking back on his long life, Bob said, "Botany is a wonderful lifelong pursuit. The plants, so familiar and dear, are a solace. You have tragedies in life. The plants are old friends. There is always pleasure in seeing and studying them."

Cathy Rose, a long-time member of the Bristlecone and Channel Islands chapters of CNPS, met Bob Muns on a Sierra Club walk in the 1960s. Cathy is the author of *Rock Creek Wildflowers*, published last summer by CNPS.



A selection of Bob's handmade floras

CHAPTER NEWS

Court Overturns Madrona Project

DECISION UPHOLDS LAND-USE LAWS AND CEQA

The legal battle to stop development on 367 acres of steep, landslide-prone hills in northeastern Orange County bore fruit when the Orange County Superior Court overturned the City of Brea's approval of the proposed development.

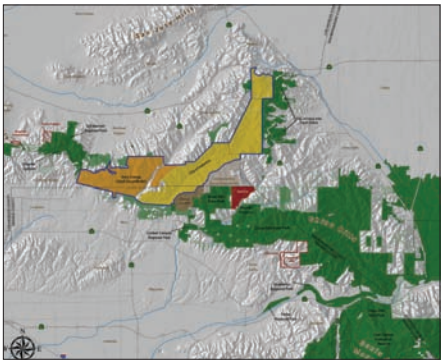


Image courtesy of Hills For Everyone

Madrona project site in relation to the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor.

The Court agreed that Brea violated its own planning documents and that the environmental impact report (EIR) for the 162-unit Madrona housing project was inadequate.

CNPS Orange County Chapter was a co-petitioner on the lawsuit, with principal petitioner Hills for Everyone, a strong local-interest nongovernmental organization. CNPS provided comments on the EIR, public testimony, and background information. Co-petitioners Orange County Friends of Harbors, Beaches, and Parks, the Sierra Club, and other local and regional environmental groups led consistent public opposition to the project throughout a long, complex campaign that ultimately protected a valuable habitat and a critical link in what remains of the natural landscape.



California walnut (*Juglans californica;* CRPR 4.2) Celia Kutcher

The decision outlined numerous instances where the City admitted that the project violates its own policies. The project also violates State planning laws mandating consistency between general and specific plans, and CEQA, by failing to disclose the project's true impacts on traffic and the environment in the EIR. Mitigation proposed for the loss of 1,400 live

continued on page 5

LAX Coastal Dunes Restoration Project

BY SNOWDY DODSON AND PEGGY NGUYEN

As you fly south from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) over Dockweiler State Beach and Santa Monica Bay, you can see the largest remaining fragment of a once-vast coastal dune ecosystem that stretched along the southern California shore. The 307-acre LAX Coastal Dunes Preserve lies where there once was a community west of the airport. Airport noise and other concerns caused the City of Los Angeles and the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase the properties and relocate the residents. Pavement, retaining walls, and exotic landscaping were left in place.

In the early 1990s, 200 acres were restored as a restricted preserve for the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly. In July 2013, the Coastal Commission issued a permit for the Los Angeles Airport Coastal Dunes Improvement Project to restore the remaining area. Since then, CNPS members from the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains and the South Coast Chapters have helped collect and propagate native plant seeds and removed thousands of nonnative plants such as ice plant, tumbleweed, castor bean, euphorbia, mustard, filaree, and wild radish. Their efforts have improved this vital habitat for the El Segundo blue butterfly and other animals, and allowed native dune plants, such as sand verbena, lupines, deerweed, California croton, and beach evening primrose, to reappear.

The Bay Foundation/Friends of the LAX Dunes conduct restoration projects on the first Saturday of each month. To participate, contact http://www.santamonicabay.org/friends-of-the-lax-dunes/.



Snowdy Dodson

Left to right: Steve Hartman, Snowdy Dodson, Mary Montes, Christine Walker

Snowdy Dodson is the current president of the Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter of CNPS and Secretary of the Theodore Payne Foundation Board. **Peggy Nguyen** is a restoration ecologist and CNPS member. Previously the LAX Dunes restoration project manager and preserve manager, she now volunteers and serves on the board of the Friends of the LAX Dunes.

CDFW Directed to Help Monarchs

LEGISLATION RECOGNIZES CONNECTION BETWEEN PLANTS AND WILDLIFE

CNPS was pleased to be the lead organization supporting Assembly Bill (AB) 559, which gives clear authority to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to "take feasible actions to conserve monarch butterflies and the unique habitats they depend upon for successful migration." Freshman Assemblywoman Patty López introduced the bill and Governor Jerry Brown signed it on October 4, 2015.



John Whittlesey

An adult monarch feeding on milkweed flower

The bill directs the CDFW to undertake monarch butterfly conservation measures, and allows it to partner with other public agencies, community groups, private landowners, and nonprofit organizations. It also identifies best practices, such as restoring habitat using "appropriate native milkweed species," controlling weeds and pests with integrated pest management instead of relying strictly on chemical sprays, and using a variety of tree species that best meet a range of monarch butterfly needs.

Following the signing, López said, "In recent years California has seen a drastic decrease in the monarch butterfly population partly due to climate change. Conserving this butterfly will have positive impacts on the environment.… For centuries these majestic creatures have called our state home and are an inspiring symbol to many of our communities because of their yearly migration." The eastern population of monarchs is being considered for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act and the western population may soon follow, having declined by an estimated 50% in the past two decades.

AB 559 is an important reminder of the connection between native flora and wildlife. Monarch butterflies are unique in that they cannot survive without milkweed. Most of California's 15 native milkweed species (of which six are relatively common) have been documented as being used by monarch butterfly larvae, according to the Xerces Society, an organization focused on invertebrate conservation.

CNPS worked with the author, led the testimony in legislative hearings, drafted position papers and support letters, and recruited 10 other organizations to join it in supporting the bill. With help from the Xerces Society, CNPS provided major text for the bill, including justification for the need to conserve monarch butterflies and suggestions for best practices.



John Whittlesey

A monarch caterpillar feeding on a milkweed leaf

"Restoring monarch butterflies and the native plants they depend on is a very good investment of public and private resources and will benefit other wildlife and important human needs as well," said Dan Gluesenkamp, Executive Director of CNPS. "Assemblywoman López's bill is a wakeup call that action is needed now."

Assemblywoman Patty López represents the 39th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Arleta, Granada Hills, North Hollywood, Mission Hills, Pacoima, San Fernando, Sunland, Sun Valley, Sylmar, and Tujunga. We encourage CNPS members to thank Ms. López for her interest in our native wildlife.

Vern Goehring,
CNPS Legislative Analyst

COURT OVERTURNS MADRONA PROJECT *continued from page 4*

oaks (*Quercus agrifolia)* and walnuts (*Juglans californica*, CRPR 4.2) was also found to be inadequate.

The triangle-shaped Madrona property is almost entirely surrounded by reserve land, with Chino Hills State Park to the west and the Firestone Scout Reservation to the north. Carbon Canyon, to the south, contains the narrow, winding, often-congested road that provides the only access. The property has been repeatedly swept by fires over many decades, most recently the 30,300-acre Freeway Complex Fire in 2008. It is a small but key piece in the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor that stretches from the Santa Ana Mountains to the Whittier Narrows and San Gabriel River. Although tenuous in places, it is wildlife's connection across the Los Angeles basin between the Peninsular Ranges to the south and the San Gabriel Mountains to the north. The corridor is also a refuge for Southern California's now-threatened coastal sage-scrub and related vegetation types.

The success of this suit will help set the precedent that general plan elements, specific plans, and similar land-use governance documents should not be amended at the whim of developers or jurisdictions. Doing so is detrimental to the areas that such documents are intended to govern and protect.

Celia Kutcher, Orange County
CNPS Conservation Chair

CNPS Begins Rare Plant Seed Collection in 2015

By Mona Robison

CNPS was able to embark upon a new rare plant seed collection project in 2015, thanks to funding from the Millennium Seed Bank of Kew Royal Botanic Garden, Dean Witter Foundation, the Mary A. Crocker Trust, and generous CNPS donors. This effort is part of The California Plant Rescue Project (CAPR), which began in 2014 and had its first year of coordinated seed collection in 2015. The purpose of this project is the long-term conservation of California Floristic Province plants through field work and long-term seed bank collections.

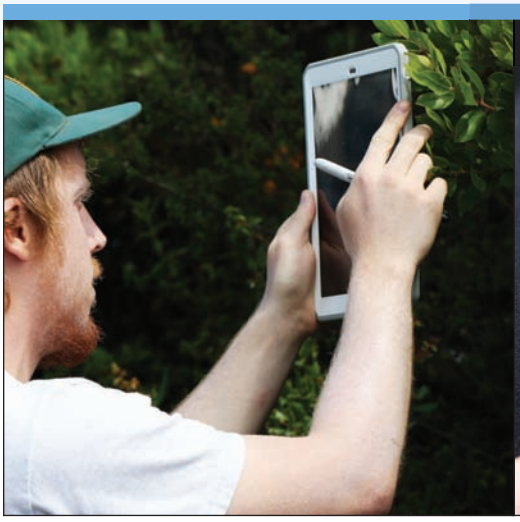


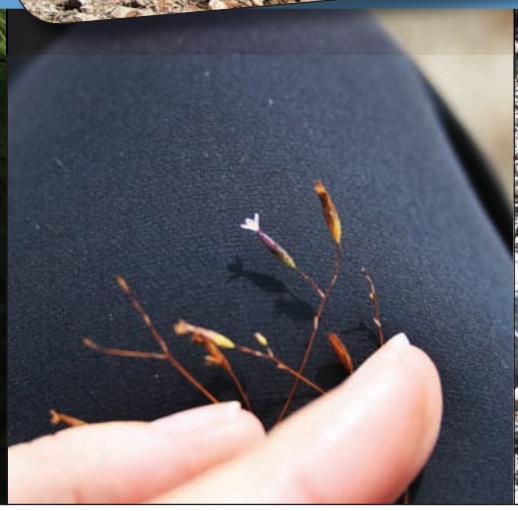




We were fortunate to attract a wide range of CNPS chapter volunteers this year to assist in our efforts; 54 participated at last count. We collected seed from populations of nine rare plants that had never before been seed-banked, and are currently preparing the seeds to be











Scientific Name	Common Name	Landowners
Arctostaphylos virgata	Marin manzanita	Mt. Tamalpais
Campanula shetleri	Castle Crags harebell	Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Ceanothus masonii	Mason's ceanothus	Mt. Tamalpais
Ivesia longibracteata	Castle Crags ivesia	Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Leptosiphon nuttallii ssp. *howellii*	Mt. Tedoc leptosiphon	Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Lessingia micradenia var. *micradenia*	Tamalpais lessingia	Mt. Tamalpais
Lilium pardalinum ssp. *pitkinense*	Pitkin Marsh lily	Private
Phacelia cookei	Cooke's phacelia	Shasta-Trinity National Forest
Symphyotrichum lentum	Suisun marsh aster	East Bay Regional Parks

Nine of the rare plant species seed banked by CNPS and partners in 2015

deposited in long-term storage. Volunteers donated over 300 hours assisting CNPS staff collecting seed in the field and cleaning seed at the Presidio Nursery and CNPS headquarters.

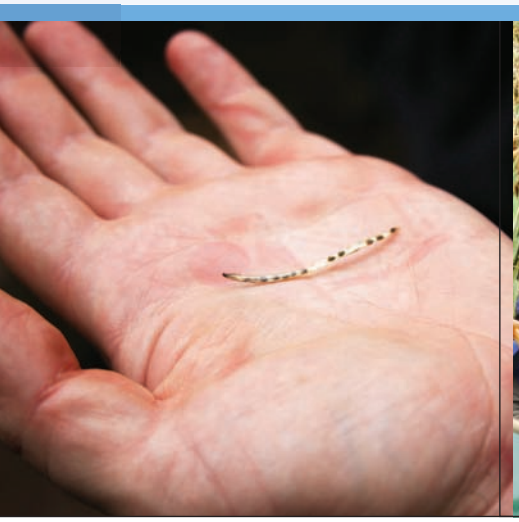
CAPR was established in partnership with several long-time CNPS partners, including the Center for Plant Conservation, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Regional Parks Botanic Garden, San Diego Botanic Garden, San Diego Zoo, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, University of California (UC) Botanical Garden, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, and the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum.



Important cooperating landowners were Marin Municipal Water District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and East Bay Regional Parks. Thanks to everyone who assisted in 2015, and we look forward to more seeds saved and banked in 2016! For more information or to participate, contact Mona Robison, mrobison@cnps.org.

Intrepid CNPS volunteers and staff ventured into varied habitats in pursuit of rare native plants during the 2015 collecting season.

Photos: Mona Robison; Aaron Sims; Danny Slakey







CNPS Wins!

(from page 1)



U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region flickr

San Fernando Valley spineflower and friend

We know, however, that the site is home to the unarmored three-spine stickleback, a fully protected, endangered minnow-sized fish that occurs only in a few reaches of the Santa Clara River, and to rare populations of the arroyo toad. We also know that the proposed construction sites support populations of the San Fernando Valley spineflower (SFVS) (*Chorizanthe parryi* var. *fernandina*), thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in 1999. Newhall Ranch may be key to survival of this unique organism.

Even more remarkable, the property includes a population of a titanic sunflower of great beauty and significance, discovered by botanists working on the Newhall Ranch development project. Recent taxonomic studies suggest that the plant is likely a new species, *Helianthus inexpectatus*, the Newhall Ranch sunflower, known *only* from a freshwater spring next to the Santa Clara River on Newhall Ranch. Yet Newhall Ranch had failed to conduct thorough botanical surveys for its environmental impact report (EIR). How easily this unique plant could have been lost!

Driven by these concerns, CNPS has worked the last 15 years to better understand the impacts of the proposed development. With Friends of the Santa Clara River, we have provided comments on draft EIRs, including over 70 pages of comments on the 2011 biological resources section of the Draft EIR for Newhall's Mission Village phase of the projct.

RESORT TO THE COURTS

After a decade of unsuccessful efforts to include sound science in the planning process, in January 2011, CNPS and several other environmental groups filed suit in Superior Court to force the California Department of Fish and Game (now Fish and Wildlife) (CDFW) to set aside take permits issued to Newhall Ranch and decertify its Spineflower Conservation Plan EIR. Then, in June 2012, CNPS joined with Friends of the Santa Clara River, Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment, Center for Biological Diversity, and Wishtoyo Foundation's Ventura Coastkeeper Program and sued the County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and Newhall Land and Farming Company, Inc. over the County's certification of the EIR and permit of the project's tract map for the Mission Village phase.

In October 2012, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ann I. Jones ruled in our favor in our 2011 suit against CDFW and Newhall Ranch. The judge decisively agreed with CNPS and plaintiffs on our four key points and four sub-issues. But CDFW and Newhall Ranch appealed the decision, and 2nd District Court of Appeal overturned the Superior Court's favorable rulings, upping the ante with a decision that would gut CEQA and the public's ability to provide comments. Consequently, we asked the California Supreme Court to overturn the appeal court's ruling on our challenge to the Spineflower Conservation Plan EIR. The Supreme Court agreed to hear our case, the first CNPS has ever brought before this body!



Mary Meyer

Newhall sunflower *(Helianthus inexpectatus)*

CNPS & SPECIAL SPECIES WIN!

On November 30, 2015, the California Supreme Court published its ruling on our challenge of the 2nd District Court of Appeal's decision. *We won!* The Supreme Court let stand our victory challenging the Spineflower Conservation Plan EIR, preventing a grievous injury to CEQA.

Now, Newhall Ranch will have to go back to the drawing board on the entire project. The special plants and unique animals are protected and we hope that the ranch's investors will finally realize that a huge development at this location is *not* a good investment. While we must remain vigilant and engaged, it is a wonderful victory and a step toward our dream of protecting this special place in perpetuity.

BREAKING NEWS! THIS JUST IN!

As this issue was going to press, CNPS and partners learned that the California Supreme Court has agreed to hear our appeal of the 2nd District Court of Appeal's ruling on our 2012 suit over the Mission Village phase. This will be CNPS's second case before the California Supreme Court. Because it raises substantially the same issues as the first, we can hope for another win that further reinforces November's conclusive decision.

[*Editor's note: Look for a more detailed account of the Newhall Ranch battles in an upcoming issue of* Fremontia.]

Reducing Solar Project Impacts

CNPS JOINS COOPERATIVE PLANNING FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

By Greg Suba, CNPS Conservation Program Director

In June 2015, UC Berkeley and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) began a multi-stakeholder process to discuss ways to combine stakeholder input and geospatial tools to find areas of mutual agreement for development of utility-scale solar energy projects and associated transmission in the San Joaquin Valley. Beyond the siting of solar projects, this work will lay the foundation for planning transmission lines necessary to connect future valley projects. Directing utility-scale projects and transmission to marginal and unusable valley agricultural lands can reduce the stress from solar projects currently placed on intact desert lands.



Neal Kramer

Succulent owl's clover, *Castilleja campestris* ssp. *succulentus*, Kennedy Table

Using online mapping tools available at DataBasin.org, separate working groups have developed maps based on each subgroup's goals and priorities. For example, the solar industry identified lands within the San Joaquin Valley where slope and geology are suitable for siting large projects. The agricultural subgroup mapped least-conflict lands where solar development would not impinge upon lands with arable soils, groundwater recharge capabilities, or priority rangeland conservation areas.

CNPS was part of the environmental conservation working group that identified areas of least conservation value based on a model of wildlife and landscape variables, including avoidance of rare plant habitat, vernal pools, and rare vegetation alliances where we know they occur in the San Joaquin Valley. You can view and explore online maps of least-conflict solar lands in the San Joaquin Valley at the San Joaquin Valley Gateway website (www.sjvp.databasin.org).

San Joaquin Valley solar project applicants will still need to go through project-level CEQA and/or NEPA review. The hope is that such review would encounter fewer environmental obstacles by having been vetted, albeit at a very coarse scale, through this process.

The OPR plans to publish a white paper summarizing this effort in January 2016. Earlier this fall, the California Energy Commission, along with the California Public Utilities Commission, announced plans to initiate a new round of statewide transmission line planning (a.k.a. Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative 2.0, or RETI 2.0). The products of the San Joaquin Valley least-conflict solar workgroup will feed into RETI 2.0 planning.



Neal Kramer

Kern mallow, *Eremalche parryi* ssp. *kernensis*, Tejon Hills



Neal Kramer

San Joaquin woollythreads, *Monolopia congdonii*, Kern Solar

For more information about this process please contact CNPS Conservation Program Director Greg Suba at gsuba@cnps.org or (916) 447-2677 x-206.

Golden Anniversary

Instead of writing a Fall Appeal Letter, this year we honored the CNPS presidents who made our first 50 years so successful. If you didn't receive the special Golden Anniversary letter, you can view it at www.cnps.org/goldenletter.



In Appreciation: Freda King

CNPS recently received a very generous bequest of £149,966 ($226,607) from the estate of Freda King of Scotland. What led Freda to bequeath one third of her estate to a native plant society dedicated to a flora more than 5,000 miles away?

Freda was the widow of British plantsman and photographer David King. David was active in European plant organizations and a regular contributor to the publications of the North American Rock Garden Society and the Pacific Bulb Society. He was an expert in the genus *Fritillaria*—initially from a horticultural perspective and later exploring the taxonomy of this complex plant group.

During the late 1990s, David visited California several times to photograph *Fritillaria* for a chapter in *Bulbs of North America* (North American Rock Garden Society 2001). Colleagues suggested that David ask CNPS to assist in locating populations of these plants. The CNPS members he contacted responded to his passionate enthusiasm by eagerly leading him on adventures throughout the state and introducing him to other members.

On a trip to Jepson Prairie in 2000 to photograph the rare *Fritillaria liliacea*, David met his first vernal pools, and quickly became fascinated. He spent the rest of that spring seeking out and photographing vernal pools and their flora, again with the help of CNPS members.

The CNPS members David met during his visits welcomed him warmly. They shared their personal appreciation of the California native flora and its habitats. While Freda did not accompany David on most of his field excursions, it is apparent that both of them were moved and inspired by the dedicated and friendly members of CNPS. Thank you, Freda and David King.



David King

An image by David King, British fan of California flora

Carol Witham,
Sacramento Valley Chapter

CNPS Educational Grant Committee Awards 2015 Grants

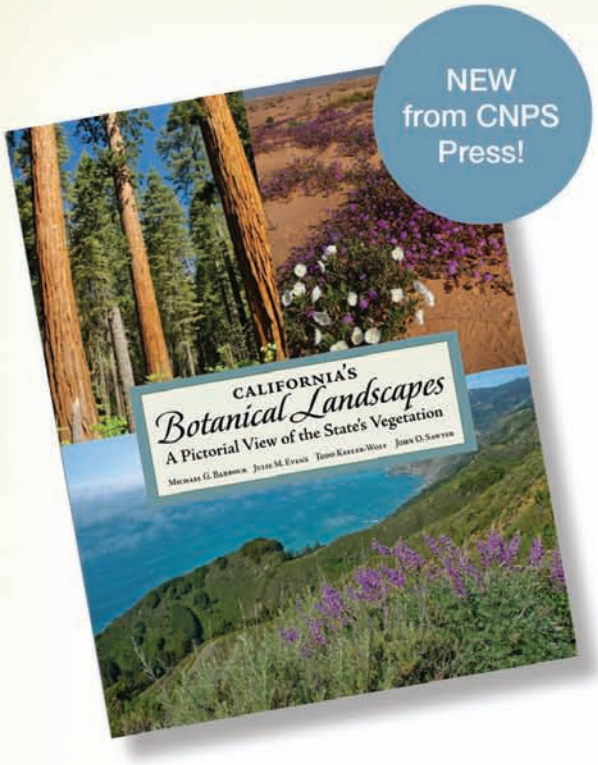
By Lauren Brown, San Luis Obispo Chapter

The CNPS Educational Grants Program will award $7,500 for research grants to students and researchers for 2015. The program received 49 applications from California universities and eastern schools, and even two from Canada. The 2015 review committee consisted of Lauren Brown (chair), and David Keil, Betsey Landis, and Steve Schoenig. Each reviewer read all proposals, commenting and scoring each on a scale of 0 to 10. The results were averaged for each proposal and the committee discussed the amounts to be awarded. Fourteen proposals will receive awards based on the value of the research to CNPS, the quality of the research described in the proposal, how the money is to be used, and how much money was available for the 2015 grants. Awards ranged from $200 to $1000. We thank the educational grant committee members for their hard work and dedication.

In reviewing the applications this year, the reviewers noted several ways that we can improve the application format and the reviewers' instructions. The Committee will make these updates this coming year to ensure the process remains fair and that funds go to research projects that support the CNPS mission. Details about CNPS Educational Grant opportunities and application instructions are at http://cnps.org/cnps/education/grants.php.

TOP FIVE PROJECTS FUNDED

- *Long-term effects of plant invasion on native diversity and community structure in California coastal grasslands*. E. Batzer
- *Southern California* Streptanthus *as a model system for understanding historical biogeography and regional patterns of edaphic specialization*. N. Jensen
- *Cryptic host-specific diversity in* Orobanche *sect*. Gymnocaulis. A. Schneider
- *Reaching a tipping point in big berry manzanita? Synergies between fungal pathogens and exceptional drought*. L. Schultheis
- *Disturbance-mediated range shifts in bristlecone pine forests*. B. Smithers



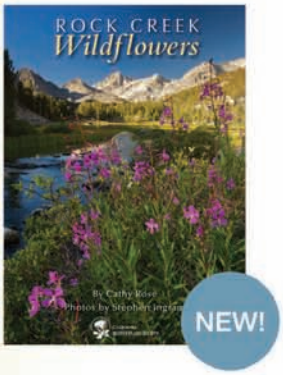
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Michael G. Barbour, Julie M. Evens, Todd Keeler-Wolf, John O. Sawyer

California's Botanical Landscapes provides a vivid exploration of the Golden State's native vegetation. Each chapter focuses on one of 14 ecoregions, illuminating their unique plant species and communities through a phenomenal array of photographs and interpretive descriptions from California's top plant ecologists.

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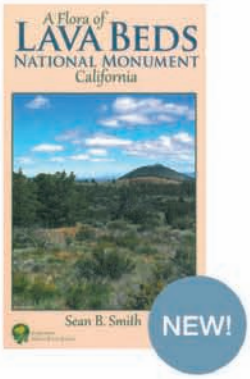
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The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants and plant communities. Membership is open to all. Visit cnps.org

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Next Chapter Council Meeting

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

MARCH 11–13, 2016 — SAN PEDRO
HOST CHAPTER: SOUTH COAST



How did CNPS help protect a new species from disaster? See inside!

Photo to the left: David Magney

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Dear Friend,

We hope you enjoy this publication. It is full of great articles and beautiful photos, all contributed by dedicated volunteers, and is just one of countless benefits offered by the California Native Plant Society. CNPS is dedicated to understanding, saving, and celebrating California's wild plants and places.



You likely already know and appreciate CNPS. You love our beautiful flowers, and probably glad CNPS is saving them. You may make a field trip once in a while to reconnect with a favorite landscape that replenishes your sense of wonder, and you are happy we have laws to protect these special places. You love seeing native plant gardens springing up in front of homes and businesses, and you point out the butterflies and hummingbirds to friends. You get it; you understand: you are a CNPS-er.

With your help, we can do much more. ***Will you please join us?***

Here are some of the reasons you should use the enclosed remittance form to join CNPS.



The rare *Calochortus plummerae*, Plummer's Mariposa Lily, Photo: Amber Swanson

35 chapters across California and in Baja offer hikes, public programs, plant sales, restoration events, garden tours, workshops, and camaraderie.

The **Conservation Program** continues to fight for California's places. CNPS has been the voice for plant conservation during development of a 30 year plan that will cover 23 million acres of desert. We successfully pushed to map vegetation on 5.5 million acres, and are using these data identify areas that should be avoided by industrial scale energy projects in the region.



Cephalanthus occidentalis, Buttonwillow and skipper. Photo: Paul G. Johnson

The **Rare Plant Treasure Hunt** (RPTH) teams volunteer Citizen Scientists with trained botanists to discover and map rare plants. RPTH volunteers have mapped more than 2,500 rare plant populations –1/3 of them new discoveries!



Carrizo Plain National Monument. Photo: Julie Evens

Once you join, you will receive a CNPS membership card that **entitles you to discounts at dozens of nurseries, stores, and businesses.** We'll also send you the latest flower-filled issues of *Fremontia* and the *CNPS Bulletin*. You'll learn about talks and hikes in your local chapter. ***Most of all you will help*** to save rare plants and places, train young scientists, and replace thirsty lawns with wildlife-friendly native plant gardens.

Please join CNPS and help us make a real and lasting difference!

Thank you for your help,

Dan Gluesenkamp
Executive Director



CNPS members on field trip at Yolo Bypass. Photo: Gary Hundt

Yes! I would like to help support CNPS! ❑ Membership $ _____ ❑ Donation $ _____

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Join or donate online at cnps.org!



Pine Hill Flannelbush
Fremontodendron decumbens
by Mary Ann Showers, CDFW

The mission of CNPS is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats, and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

Join our mission today!

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Support CNPS and receive great benefits, including:

- FREE subscription to *Fremontia* journal and *CNPS Bulletin* newsletter
- Receive local chapter newsletter, and access to chapter field trips, workshops, plant sales, garden tours and more!
- **The satisfaction of helping save California's plants and places!**

JOIN today!

Membership Levels:

- Individual - $45
- Family - $75
- Plant Lover - $100
- Patron - $300
- Benefactor - $600
- Mariposa Lily - $1500
- Blue Oak (business/org, up to 3 employees) - $150
- Gray Pine (business/org, 3-6 employees) - $500
- White Fir (business/org, 7-10 employees) - $1000
- Coast Redwood (business/org, 11+ employees) - $2500
- Student/Limited Income - $25

Not ready to join? Donate today! You can support CNPS by donating. Any amount helps to preserve and protect California's native flora for generations to come!