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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

BULLETIN

Off-Highway Vehicle Reform

Why It's Needed and How You Can Help

Environmental damage from off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity is outpacing California's ability to repair it. Thousands of illegal OHV trails mar the state's terrain, and state-funded OHV parks continue to expand. Now, we have a chance to help correct what's wrong without attacking responsible riders who want to do the right thing, and we need your help!

In February, Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica) introduced Senate Bill 249, legislation that will improve conservation standards, governance structure, and funding allocations within California State Park's Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division. This year, we've been working closely with our Legislative Consultant Vern Goehring on an active campaign for SB 249 as part of a broad coalition of groups supporting Senator Allen's bill.

On June 1, SB 249 passed the full Senate by a vote 22-15 and is now working its way through the Assembly. Please read on to learn more about the legislation and the one thing you can do today to help.



Photo by Friends of Juniper Flats

Tracks run past restoration signage at Juniper Flats.

Background – State Parks and OHV Recreation

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) administers 280 park units across the state. The great majority of these (271) are the camping and hiking areas most familiar to Californians. Nine units are State Vehicle Recreation Areas, where off-road enthusiasts can find motorized recreational opportunities.

Within the State Park system, the OHMVR Division manages the operations of nine State Vehicle Recreation Areas (SVRAs) across 111,000 acres of California. OHMVR also manages millions of dollars in grants each year to fund the operation, maintenance, law enforcement, and repair work performed across millions of acres of OHV open areas and trails on BLM and USFS-managed federal lands in California.

California law authorizing the creation and maintenance of the State Parks OHMVR Division includes a recurring sunset clause allowing the legislature, and thereby the public, to review the program on a recurring basis, make modifications as necessary, and reauthorize or eliminate the program. The Legislature last reauthorized the OHMVR program in 2007, and set the next sunset date for January 1, 2018. So this year lawmakers must vote to reauthorize the OHMVR program lest it expire on New Year Day, thereby providing the opportunity to reform and modernize the Division's operations.

What Does SB 249 Do?

Since the last reauthorization 10 years ago, environmental damage and illegal OHV activity have prompted multiple lawsuits against the State Parks OHMVR Division. Complaints include endangered species act and air quality violations (Oceano Dune SVRA), cultural resource impacts (Ocotillo Wells SVRA), and inadequate CEQA review related to both SVRA General Plan development and SVRA expansion (Carnegie SVRA).

continued on page 6

What you can do:

Call your local Assembly members today and ask them to support SB 249.



From the Executive Director
A Tale of Two Carrizos



Pot growers are the latest to take advantage of the cheap, unprotected land near Carrizo Plain National Monument. We must protect what we wish to keep wild.

It is summer. The *Superbloom* flowers have faded and set seed; and yet they live on in our memories and our photos. That was an incredible spring!

In March my family made the trek to Carrizo Plain National Monument, joining thousands of other flower worshippers from across California and around the world—including television crews from Korea, a Netflix team working on a documentary, and dozens of drone-flying photographers. It was glorious!

You most likely saw the *Superbloom* featured in headlines and news stories; it seemed that every major newspaper in the U.S. celebrated California's incredible *Superbloom*. For a few weeks we all joined together to admire the display of resilience and recovery. As you and I worry about the drought, climate change, political turmoil and anti-environmental executive orders, the flowers responded with a beautiful, positive, irreverent explosion of light, hope, and faith in the future. It was a perspective shift that many of us needed.

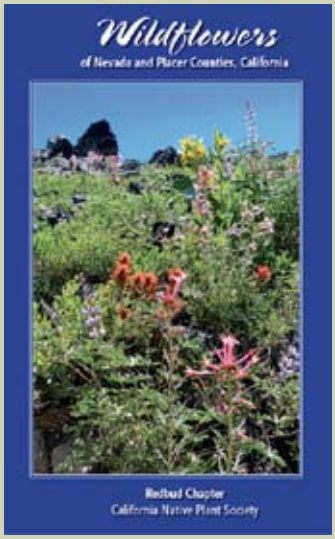
Just as the bloom recharged my emotional batteries, the shock of ongoing habitat destruction in the midst of those flowers has renewed my determination. While a substantial portion of Carrizo is protected land, much of it remains in private hands and is being destroyed. This contrast, between the protected Carrizo and the Carrizo at risk, has a story to tell. North of the National Monument much of the land is being covered with solar panels, and dozens of smaller parcels host hastily-erected pot farms. The bloom, the pot, and the solar are all there for the same reason—the soil of Carrizo is low nutrient and alkaline, terribly dry, and unproductive for both weeds and for agriculture. Without weeds, the flowers thrive; without agriculture, the land prices remain very low. Now, pot growers and solar operators are exploiting this cheap land.

Whatever we want to keep wild, we have to secure. The good news is that this is within our grasp. Pot farmers bought those lots for as little as $3K per acre! I saw hundreds of international flower tourists who likely spent that much just to get to Carrizo. Just imagine what we can do with this growing constituency. Together, we can save these remarkable lands.

Dan Gluesenkamp
CNPS Executive Director

Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties

Second Edition Now Available



From valley grasslands and foothills to meadows and mountain peaks, Sierra Nevada wildflowers enchant all who stop to enjoy their beauty and wonder. The second edition of the versatile guide, *Wildflowers of Nevada and Placer Counties, California* by the CNPS Redbud Chapter describes over 500 species of wildflowers found in Nevada and Placer Counties, a richly diverse region home to 38 percent of all plants known to grow wild in California.

The new edition includes an easy-to-use plant identification key, along with drawings of plant anatomy and icons for each plant family. Illustrated with more than 600 color photographs, close-ups and landscapes, the book features habitat descriptions and tips on places to see bountiful wildflower displays. Both casual hikers and avid botanists alike will find it useful.

Get your copy today at store.cnps.org!

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Bryophytes Get Growing Respect

During its 50 years, the California Native Plant Society has advanced the protection and celebration of the vascular plants of California. Lo, the myriad flowers and ferns! Today, naturalists are expanding our view of nature beyond vascular plants and vertebrates toward smaller, under-appreciated organisms, often requiring a hand lens to see.

Much to my excitement, the newest issue of *Fremontia* is devoted to lichens and bryophytes, which will undoubtedly bring a bit more attention to our under-appreciated CNPS Bryophyte Chapter. Our mission is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's mosses, liverworts, and hornworts—and to protect them where they grow.

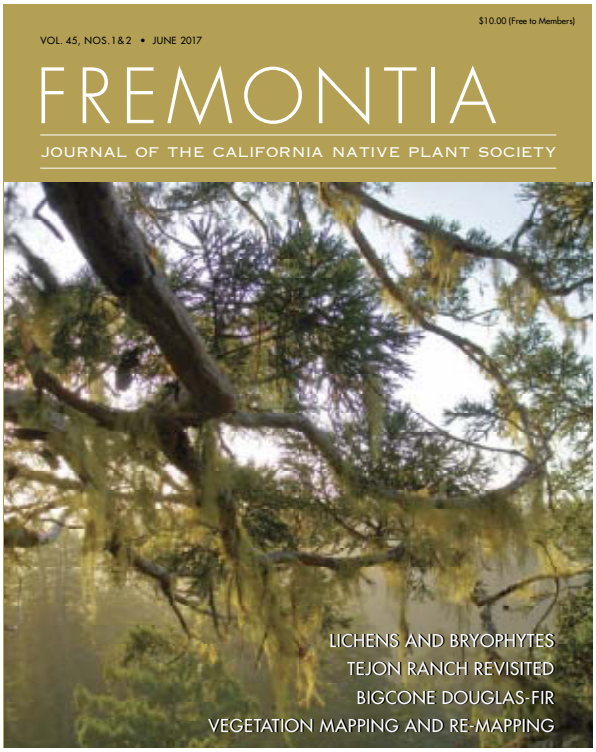


Photo by Shelly Benson



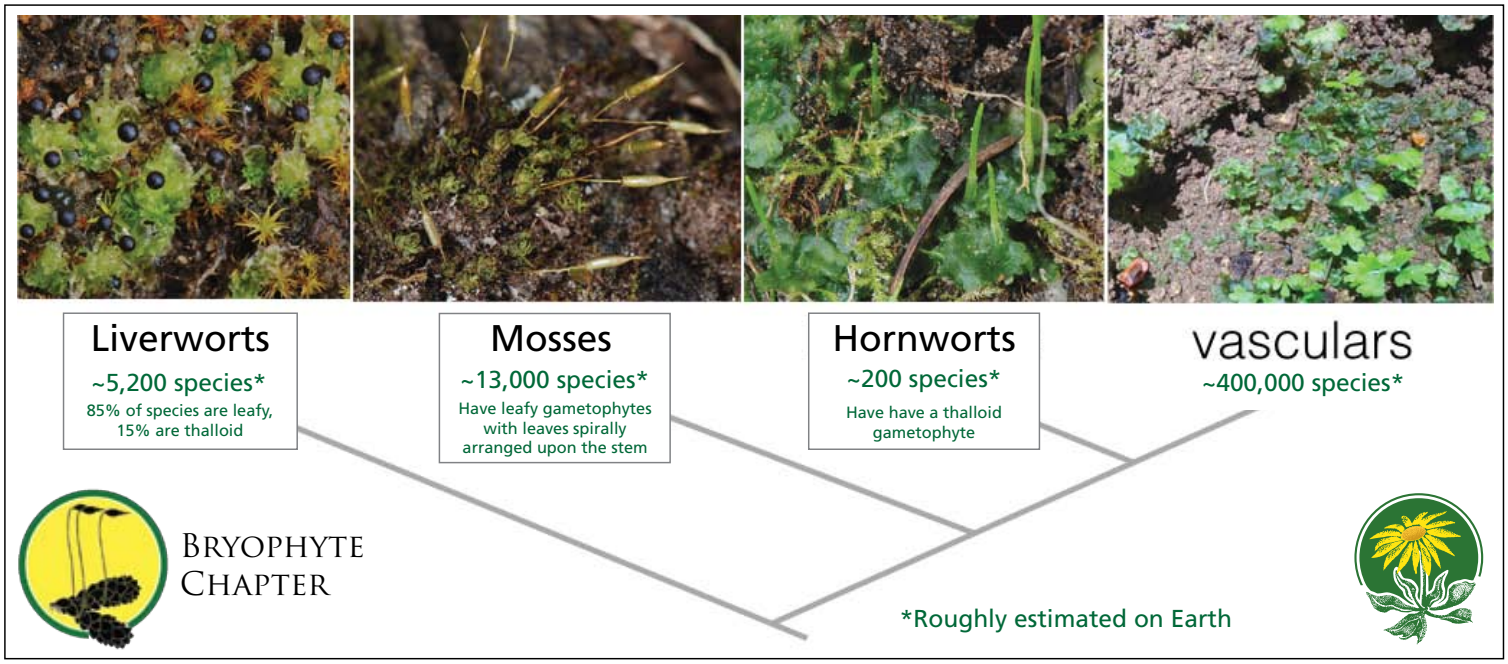
Fog lichens (*Niebla homalea*) form small, shrubby tufts, typically on coastal rocks. Their shrubby growth form intercepts wind-blown fog, enabling these lichens to become hydrated and begin photosynthesizing without a rainfall event.

As naturalists, we live in happy times in which we look forward to plant conferences and lichen symposia. Attendees to these events can expect to engage with a rich social network of people supporting an increasingly wide-range of natural diversions.

I hope in my lifetime, Californians will move toward supporting the protection of a diversity of organisms—big and small—while also supporting professionals who will study and manage them for conservation. With place-based collaborations including experts and amateurs sharing their passions, I believe one day liverworts will be recognized and appreciated as much as vascular plants are today.

It is paramount that biological consultants be obliged to inventory organisms of all sizes and while also producing comprehensive manuals for other non-experts to read and enjoy. For now, revel in this wonderful issue with a cryptogram focus.

—Paul Wilson
CNPS Bryophyte Chapter, President



Cultural Connection
Catching Up with Mama Maiz of Long Beach


Photo by Blanca Diaz

Blanca Diaz

When Blanca Diaz looks around her neighborhood in downtown Long Beach, she sees stacked apartment buildings, community members living together in tight quarters, and few gardens.

"People don't have much room to grow food or medicine," says Blanca. "This is a community that isn't always expected to even care about plants."

But Blanca, also known as "Mama Maiz" is determined to change that, particularly for the children in her area. A practicing doula, herbalist, and member of the CNPS South Coast Chapter, Blanca is finding simple but meaningful ways to build a community around native plants.

> "I'm only very humbly sharing what I've been given permission to share.

A Walk with the Ancestors

Each month, Blanca hosts a plant walk for young children at nearby parks in her area. The outings always begin with a few moments to honor the ancestors of the land, the Tongva and Chumash, people who lived for millennia in the Los Angeles basin and coastal California.

"It's really about returning to our roots," says Blanca. "A lot of the kids that gather with me have a very rich heritage —South American, indigenous California, Mexico."

Next, Blanca gives the kids clipboards, crayons, and magnifying glasses to begin the walk. The children are encouraged to touch, smell, listen, draw, and sometimes even taste what's around them. Being around these native plants is essential, says Blanca. "By connecting to and being exposed to all these beautiful trails and parks, we're allowing families to feel that it's not out of their reach."

Each walk ends with simple enthnobotany lessons, where the kids (and their parents) have a chance to learn about or make plant-based treats like black sage honey or cough drops. She also invites families and others in the community into her home garden—a rare find in downtown Long Beach—where people are encouraged to simply sit with the plants and gather together.

"We don't have to do elaborate things to connect with plants," she says. "We just need a chance to see how these plants, the earth, and the water are taking care of us, so in return we're caring for them."

Plants as Healers

Blanca remembers a Southern California childhood filled with plant-based remedies, and she believes she's not alone. "From folk-remedies to food, we probably all had something," she says. "Even if it was just garlic or soup."

But it wasn't until Blanca's 20s that she became passionate about plants. After repeated rounds of antibiotics failed to heal a chronic illness, she came across "a little old lady in the Valley" who gave her herbs and instructions. The illness never returned.

Since then, Blanca has learned from teachers including Tongva elder Barbara Drake, the late Chumash medicinewoman Cecilia Garcia, Estela Roman Curandera from Mexico, and Julie James, a master herbalist in Long Beach. Today, in addition to the children's hikes, she teaches herbal medicine making and is gaining a social media following around the call to "decolonize your medicine."

"It's really important to acknowledge that this knowledge has been around for so many years, " she says. "I'm only very humbly sharing what I've been given permission to share."

Everyone Can Enjoy Plants

More than anything, Blanca wants everyone, wherever they live, to feel empowered to build a relationship with plants. Even something as simple as placing a sprig by your bedside can be meaningful, she says. Here are a few of Blanca's favorite natives to grow and use at home. (Of course, always check with an expert before ingesting any plants you don't know well).

- **Mugwort** – For use in baths, teas, and by your bedside for its aroma.
- **Yarrow** – Use in teas and in salves for minor stings, cuts, and bug bites.
- **Elderflowers** – Try in teas, salads, pastries, liquors.
- **Sagebrush** – Rub over your body for a natural deodorant.

Blanca and Mama Maiz hopes to inspire you to grow your own native plants and other foods and medicines. To learn more about Blanca's work, follow @Mama_Maiz on Instagram.

—Liv O'Keeffe
CNPS Marketing and Communications

In Appreciation

Allen Rusk Leaves Legacy to East Bay Chapter Nursery

Charitable giving to CNPS largely comes in two different forms – monetary gifts or contributions of time and skills.

Allen Rusk was a modest person who aimed to give as much of both, whose generosity was shared with family, friends, and his local chapter of CNPS. He worked for many years at St. Mary's College as a member of their grounds staff and after retirement, dedicated much of his free time to East Bay Chapter's Native Here Nursery.

Nursery production manager Charli Danielsen said that one day she noticed a man walking around the nursery who declined help when offered and said he was just wanted to look around.



Photo by Janice Bray

Allen Rusk in the Native Here Nursery

The next time the nursery was open for business, the same man walked up and said he wanted to volunteer – thus began Allen's years of dedicated volunteering at the nursery. Over the years Allen potted thousands of little plants on Fridays, watered a "significant section" of the nursery on Sundays, and often showed up on Saturdays to do anything else that was needed on site. He was a regular on seed and cutting collection trips, spending many happy hours wandering Redwood Regional Park or Mount Diablo with John Danielsen as they added to Native Here's seed supply.

When diagnosed with brain cancer, East Bay volunteers visited him regularly and he asked for help preparing his will. Although he was not a wealthy individual in the conventional sense, Allen was a generous one, leaving bequests to neighbors, the local food bank, long-time friends, and Native Here Nursery, where he had spent so many hours over the years. Fittingly, after his passing, a memorial was held at the nursery to remember the man who had given so much of his time there.

Allen embodied the adage that "it's not what you got, but it's what you give." Native Here volunteers and committee members are currently discussing the best uses of his thoughtful legacy gift in a way that will benefit the nursery as well as recognize volunteers like Allen.

—Stacey Flowerdew and Charli Danielsen

Vehicle Donations

Did you know that CNPS accepts vehicle donations? If you have a car, truck, motorcycle, motor home, trailer, or boat you no longer need, you can donate today to CNPS. It's a simple process, and you get the benefit of a tax deduction. To get started, please contact CNPS Senior Development Coordinator Stacey Flowerdew at sflowerdew@cnps.org. Thank you!



Native Plant Calendar of Events

Summer is here, and fall planting season is just around the corner. Now's a great time to check out CNPS calendar of events to see upcoming chapter plant sales, workshops, hikes, and other partner events. Have an event you'd like listed? Email us at cnps@cnps.org.

www.cnps.org/events



OHV

Continued from front cover

The Division's relationship to OHV recreation on federal lands also needs a tune up. While OHMVR grants fund OHV-related restoration and on federal lands in California, the effectiveness of that funding—tens of millions of dollars—is unclear.

SB 249 reforms and modernizes the OHMVR Division in three fundamental ways:

1. It clarifies the roles, responsibilities, and authorities between the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Division.
2. It establishes requirements for reviewing and updating conservation standards, and providing greater law enforcement measures that will protect sensitive cultural and natural resources within SVRAs and on any public lands tied to OHMVR grant funding.
3. SB 249 addresses how the OHMVR program is funded, and how that money is spent. Did you know that every time you pump gas into your car, you pay for the expansion and maintenance of OHV riding in California? A portion of California's fuel tax flows into OHMVR—approximately $57 million annually; 75 percent of OHMVR's program funding comes state fuel taxes.

> "Fuel tax funding has created a budget surplus of $145 million in the OHMVR Trust Fund—this, while other state agencies struggle to keep budgets and staffing above water.

The state legislature has commissioned two studies in the past 10 years to examine the accuracy of how fuel tax funding is calculated, the first was published in 2006 and the latest in May of this year. Both studies conclude the on-going fuel tax calculation overestimates the amount of fuel attributed to OHV motorized recreational activity. What is more, OHMVR grant money coming from our fuel taxes is currently not used on trail maintenance if those trails don't allow OHV riding. SB 249 will ensure that the overestimated portion of fuel tax money—the amount not attributable to motorized recreation—will go to maintain and improve hiking and equestrian trails where OHV riding is not allowed.

Photo by George Barnes



Millions in taxpayer money goes toward the repair of illegal OHV trails on federal land, but enforcement is weak, and people regularly ignore barriers like the one pictured here.

The Opposition

The OHV community is lobbying hard to kill SB 249, and effectively clouded and even misrepresented the issues among key, moderate Democratic state senators whose districts are home to robust OHV user groups.

One of the OHV community's key arguments is that SB 249 would starve the OHMVR program of funding by redirecting the non-motorized recreation fuel tax portion (e.g., the fuel tax coming from my driving a Mini Cooper to a wilderness trailhead to go hiking) to non-motorized recreational purposes. This is not true, and here's why:

Fuel Tax reports identify an overestimate of money going to OHMVR. The 2006 Report determined that rather than the $57 million sent to OHMVR, the program should be receiving somewhere between $22 - $31 million. The 2017 Report reaffirms the 2006 Report's conclusions and states that the current method of calculating fuel tax funding to OHMVR, "is problematic and systematically overestimates the amount of fuel used by OHVs. The amount of error in the fuel tax transfer has only increased over the past ten years as the vehicle population and use patterns have continued to change. It is unlikely that OHV registration and use will recover to the historically high levels seen in 2006 any time soon." Yet the OHV community tells our elected officials that changing fuel tax appropriations to OHMVR will kill the program and all the family fun that goes with it, and many legislators bend to their message.

Here's one more fact you should know: The OHV-related fuel tax funding has resulted in a 2016-17 fiscal year budget surplus of $145 million in the OHMVR Trust Fund—this, while other state agencies struggle to keep budgets and staffing above water. The same program that couldn't possibly withstand a change in fuel tax distribution currently holds $145 million more than it can spend in reserve. What is the OHV com-

Photo by Friends of Tesla Park



Tracks at Carnegie State Vehicle Recreation Area. Only the horizontal lines are legal trails.

SB 249 Coalition

The following organizations support CA SB 249, a 2017 bill to reform off-highway vehicle use in California.

- California Native Plant Society
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Sierra Club California
- Defenders of Wildlife
- The Wilderness Society
- California Wilderness Coalition
- Friends of Tesla Park
- Audubon California
- Community Off-Road Vehicle Watch
- Alliance for Responsible Recreation
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Morongo Basin Conservation Association
- Society of American Indians
- Regional Parks Association
- Save Mount Diablo
- Alameda Creek Alliance
- Tri-Valley Trailblazers
- Save the Frogs
- Citizens to Complete the Refuge
- Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation
- Friends of the Arroyos
- Tesla Road Residents Alliance
- Nototomne Cultural Preservation - Northern Valley Yokut/ Ohlone/Bay Miwuk Tribe
- SPRAWLDEF
- Livermore Heritage Guild
- Friends of Livermore
- County of Alameda

munity complaining about, and why are legislators listening to it? The answer to the latter is that the OHV community is much better at calling and writing (not emailing) their elected officials to let them know how they want them to vote.

Do One Thing

We need your help to pass SB 249. It is absolutely essential that you make a phone call to your local Assembly member and ask them to support SB 249. To find your State Assembly member, follow the link at www.cnps.org/reform-ohv.

Make certain to tell them you are a voter within their district. (They will ask you where you live).

SB 249 is not a bill that destroys, starves, or otherwise puts OHMVR Division out of business, nor does it take away legal riding opportunities for Californians. SB 249 is a bill to bring OHMVR conservation standards up to date and on par with the rest of California. It creates fairer spending of our fuel taxes, better conservation standards, better law enforcement, and clearer oversight related to California State Park's OHMVR program.

Any form of outdoor recreation can cause environmental degradation: hiking, camping, fishing, and off-roading. Some forms of recreation demand little because the impacts are little; others demand a lot because the potential impacts are great. SB 249 seeks to ensure that OHV recreation is available to, and can be enjoyed by, residents in the future —guided by standards and practices similar to other recreation, wildlife, and environmental protection programs. Senator Allen's bill will provide California with just that but not without your help. Please contact your Assembly member today and ask them to support SB249.

—**Greg Suba**
CNPS Conservation Director

Spring in the Garden

Highlights from the 2017 Garden Tours

In the spirit of *Show Don't Tell*, there's perhaps no better argument for native plant gardening than the beautiful gardens themselves. That's what makes garden tours such a powerful tool in both teaching and inspiring our communities about the potential of native plant landscaping. Each year, dedicated CNPS volunteers work with hundreds of garden "ambassadors" up and down the state to showcase California native home and community gardens.

Here are some of our favorite photos from this year's tours. A huge thank you to all who helped make these events a reality!!



A vibrant front yard with helpful inte
Sacramento Chapter's Gardens *Go*
photos courtesy CNPS Sac Valley Cha



Biomimicry on display in Redding at the CNPS Shasta Chapter Garden Tour. (Photo courtesy of Donal Junio.)



Every California native garden need
have one on display?



Water features make a great addition to native California landscaping seen here on the CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter's *Going Native Garden Tour*. (Photo courtesy CNPS SCV Chapter.)



Chico curb appeal featuring native g
Garden Tour. (Photo courtesy Mt. Las



rpretive signage from the CNPS
one Native Tour. (Sacramento
apter)



Sunlit *Phacelia* in Sonoma County at the *Eco-Friendly Garden Tour*, put on in partnership with the CNPS Milo Baker Chapter. (Photo courtesy of Gregory Plumb)



ds one of these. Does your yard



Gorgeous natives blend with the scenery in San Ramon on the *Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour*. (Photo courtesy of Kathy Kramer)



grasses on the CNPS Mt. Lassen
ssen Chapter)



A native Oak looking right at home in this Sacramento landscape on the *Gardens Gone Native Tour.*

Cultivating Place

An Interview with Jennifer Jewell

Based in Chico, Jennifer Jewell has explored the natural and cultural connections we have to our gardens for many years. Her podcast *Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden* is founded on two beliefs:

- *Horticulture ("the art of garden cultivation or management" according to the Oxford English Dictionary) is a foundational element of our cultural literacy — on par with art, music, architecture, history, geography, social studies and literature.*
- *Gardens and gardening provide a unique, and uniquely beautiful, bridge connecting us to our larger environments — culturally and botanically.*

CNPS is delighted to have her share thoughts with us.

What early life experiences piqued your interest in plants?

JJ: Growing up along the front range of the Colorado Rocky Mountains with a gardener/garden designer/florist mother and wildlife biologist father, my family spent a lot of time in the outdoors—hiking, camping, fly fishing and hunting. Both of my grandfathers were avid gardeners, two uncles were landscape architects, and my eldest maternal aunt was the head gardener at Ash Lawn, the historic home of James Monroe.

> "CNPS is raising awareness and teaching people a love and understanding of place-based, regionally appropriate, and sustainable horticulture.

In my life, when I have experienced a deep sense of place, the location was characterized by a specific natural environment. I did not understand this connection as a child—and certainly would not have been able to articulate it—but I was fortunate enough to have been made aware of the unique environments my extended family called home. From snowy winters in the mountains to summers accented by afternoon thundershowers in ponderosa pine forests, I was brought up with the expectation that these places—and garden stories that went with them—were things people should know.

I was likewise brought up with the unspoken understanding and expectation that a garden was part of the place in which it was created. Gardens should work both independently and collaboratively with its wider environment and should not work counter to the soils, climate, wildlife, and plant life around it.

When I was about 10, my mother granted me a ten by four foot plot in her vegetable garden with which to do what I wanted. I thus set about creating a formal herb garden. When I was in my teens, I worked for my mother's garden and floral business—cutting native flowers from the garden, weeding and watering, and collecting ponderosa pine cones for decorations, among other chores. I also remember reciting the names of penstemons, lupines and potentillas when we would hike while seeing similarities in morphology between the wild and the cultivated. These experiences were integral to my happiness.



Photo by John Whittlesey

Jennifer Jewell hosts a radio podcast called *Cultivating Place*, which aims to discover connections between us and our gardens.

How did your career path develop?

JJ: Through high school and college it was clear that I would be a writer. After I graduated from Harvard University with a degree in World Literature (along with detours like five years on the road with a traveling circus), I accepted a job in Seattle working on content development for Microsoft's Encarta Encyclopedia (back in the day—just before the DVD was being introduced). My focus was on art and literature wherein I got to write and manage entries about the Nobel Prize for Literature, the Booker Prizes, and the National Book Awards. I worked on this for about five years, and during that time spent every other waking minute developing my first urban garden.

We had a 10,000 square foot corner lot with a small 1919 bungalow in the Seattle neighborhood of Ballard. It was apparent that the previous owner was a gardener based on the infrastructure already in place. I could not have asked for a better climate or city in which to start my first home garden. It was at this time I first wove together my passions



Jennifer Jewell with her youngest daughter in their first California garden.

by writing about gardens with the act of gardening. The more I wrote (and gardened) the more I understood the beautiful interplay between the native plants of any place and the joy and benefits of gardening.

After several years of writing for national "glossy" magazines, my family moved to Chico where I proposed a gardening radio program to my local public radio station. North State Public radio jumped at the offer and for the first eight years in Northern California, I crafted a four-minute weekend broadcast. That program eventually expanded into *Cultivating Place*, a deeper program suitable for a broader audience.

I knew from my original program that the content and conversations which moved me and my listeners the most were those that took place in that overlap between gardens and the natural world around it. In this way I discovered how gardeners and nature lovers bridged the interdependence of life in such a way that the garden and landscape became one, or at least more complementary.



How do you see CNPS playing a role connecting people to gardening and native plants?

JJ: CNPS was on my radar within a few months of moving to Chico. I quickly became a member, attended monthly meetings and plant sales, and presented several evening programs. I learned that almost every cultivated plant I loved in my previous gardens had a California native plant counterpart—often several—in the California Floristic Province.

CNPS (Lassen and Shasta Chapter) friends taught me to research plants I was encountering on the trail, or at native plant sales, using resources like Calscape, the *Jepson Manual,* Jepson e-flora, and CalFlora. My first hard copy of the *Jepson Manual* was a gift from the CNPS Lassen Chapter. It did not take long to appreciate that while CNPS was focused on the native plants of this floristic province, it was also managing information on floristics for one of the great biodiversity hotspots of the world.

CNPS provides expansive educational outreach and advocacy, which is greatly needed at this time. CNPS is also leading the way in native plant research pertaining to climate change, and—through the Vegetation Program—is providing scientific understandings of California's plants on a landscape-scale.

But, as is dear to my heart, CNPS is also a leader in horticultural *gardening* advocacy. The organization is raising awareness for native plants while also teaching people a love and understanding of place-based, regionally appropriate, and sustainable horticulture. This promotes and develops a rich sense of culture for gardening by cultivating a stewardship for the place we call home.

Hear Jennifer on North State Public Radio (KCHO 91.7 FM in Chico, CA and KFPR 88.9 FM in Redding, CA) Thursdays at 10 am and 6:30 pm. You can also subscribe to the Cultivating Place podcast on iTunes or Stitcher. For more information visit www.Jewellgarden.com

Citizen Science & Plant Exploring
Collaborative BioBlitz in the Milpitas Special Interest Area

On April 15, 2017 the Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA) partnered with CNPS Monterey Bay and Santa Cruz chapters for its first-ever BioBlitz in the Milpitas Special Interest Area (SIA). This area was designated by the Los Padres National Forest in 2005 to preserve the natural and cultural resources of the upper Arroyo Seco and San Antonio watersheds.

The Milpitas SIA is located on the eastern slopes of the Santa Lucia Mountains where one can find the largest valley oak savannah on public land. Surrounding ridges feature diverse chaparral, five tree oaks species, and six conifer species. The regional diversity is nurtured by numerous springs, wetlands, seeps, and streams which complement towering rock outcrops. This abiotic complexity facilitates a wide range of plant habitats—and much more.

Humans have occupied this area for thousands of years and evidence still remains in the form of rock art, midden remnants, and bedrock mortars. Over this time of Native America occupation, plant assemblages were shaped, in part, by active Salinan management including seed and bulb harvesting and the ignition of periodic fires that promoted the growth of food and fiber plants.

To adequately understand and better protect this diverse and sensitive place, land managers and scientists continue to collect data on the variety of habitats. We contributed to this data with our recent BioBlitz.



Photo by Mike Splain

Arroyo Seco bushmallow (*Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *lucianus*, CNPS List 1B.2)

Naturalists from VWA and CNPS joined forces to documented as many species in the SIA as possible. While the scenery was grand the search was challenging—including looking for insects under logs, scrutinizing mammal tracks for species ID, and scrambling steep hillside to photograph wildflowers. All challenges aside, participants were treated to a "superbloom" that included carpets of goldfields (*Lasthenia* sp.), owl's clover (*Castilleja* sp.) and sky lupines (*Lupinus nanus*). VWA/CNPS members Mike Splain, Deanna Giuliano, Dave Nelson, Kate Cunningham, and John Libby helped participants track down rare endemics, including Arroyo Seco bushmallow (*Malacothamnus palmeri* var. *lucianus,* CNPS List 1B.2), Butterworth's buckwheat (*Eriogonum butterworthianum*, CNPS List 1B.3), and Santa Lucia fir (*Abies bracteata*, CNPS List 1B.3). Other unusual sightings included naked broomrape (*Orobanche uniflora*), harlequin lupine (*Lupinus stiversii*), dwarf brodiaea (*Brodiaea jolonensis*) and bitter root (*Lewisia rediviva* var. *minor*).

Once back from the field, all of our team's observations (including 179 plant species) were entered into iNaturalist, a publicly accessible database of natural history observations. Once in the database, citizen scientists in the iNaturalist community review observations to generate research-grade data.

BioBlitz observations provided a valuable snapshot of regional biodiversity, phenology, locations of species of concern, and data on the spread of invasive plants. These data will be shared with the US Forest Service to guide research and management decisions. Plans for future BioBlitz events and targeted monitoring are already in the works.

Find out more about the VWA at www.ventanawild.org. Interested in participating in future citizen science projects? Contact me!

Amy Patten
CNPS Santa Cruz Chapter and
Ventana Wilderness Alliance
amy@ventanawild.org.



Photo by Amy Patten

Citizen scientists collecting data on Santa Lucia Fir, *Abies bracteata*.

Kids Corner

Documenting Natural Phenomena

Kids need nature, and we as parents, educators, and caring adults, need to provide access to it for them. It's a simple statement, but one that has become harder and harder to achieve in the world of standardized tests, electronics, and organized sports.

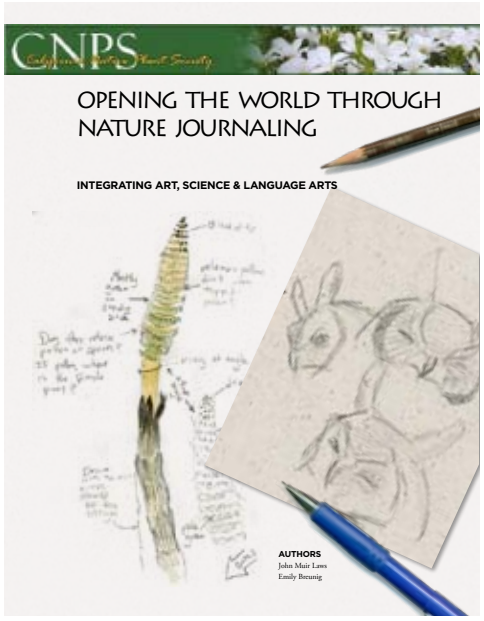
To help kids get out and enjoy nature more often, CNPS worked with nature educator John (Jack) Muir Laws a few years ago to publish his nature journaling curriculum. The book guides kids through a combination of art, writing, and science-based activities.

For years, Jack has been developing his curriculum to engage students of all ages in sharpening their observational powers through sketching in the field. He has found that this combination of visual and kinesthetic learning reaches even students who had given up on their artistic abilities long ago.

More recently, the Language Arts component completed the experience. Jack began to work with Emily Breunig, an English and writing instructor, to incorporate exercises such as writing haikus, creating narrative stories, and formulating hypotheses to complement the outdoor observational activities.

This interdisciplinary combination of art, science, writing, and observation exemplifies the California Native Plant Society's goals in creating educational programs: to engage students of all ages in the incredible natural world of California, to inspire them to keen observations of the wild places in their own backyards, and to foster a desire to protect these unique habitats.

Opening the World Through Nature Journaling has been available for seven years and in that time has guided children and adults throughout California in connecting with their natural surroundings. In classrooms, parks, and vacant lots around the state, more and more people are taking up their sketchbooks and letting nature journaling guide their appreciation of the outdoors. As Beverly Black, a fourth grade teacher in the San Francisco East Bay Area, reports, "Since I've been sharing nature observation through journaling with my students, I've noticed that they are much more in tune with their surroundings. They're seeing more, asking more questions, and I think appreciating the natural world more. Nature journaling has been rewarding to me personally, and I hope that I can encourage my students to make it a lifelong passion as well."



May these activities bring the same passion to you and the children you love! Bring it along on your summer adventures.

Download this FREE curriculum at:
www.cnps.org/cnps/education

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JOHN MUIR LAWS
NATURE STEWARDSHIP THROUGH SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND ART

In the Garden with Mike Evans

What are the most important things to know about watering native plants?



All plants use water on an as needed basis to maintain turgidity (water-filler roots, stems, leaves), to cool themselves (transpiration), and to grow through photosynthesis. All plants develop adaptations to allow them to thrive in their native regions. For most California natives, this means they possess the ability to survive and grow in an environment that experiences an extended dry period for nearly half the year. The plants do most of their growing during the cool, moist season, and through various adaptations, conserve precious moisture in summer by slowing down transpiration and growth.

During the cool season, native plant gardens require little or no irrigation. During a normal winter season, rain events with sufficient quantity and regularity will provide the needed amount of water for native plants. Irrigation to supplement rainfall will only be needed in dry years, during long dry spells in winter, or on plants that simply require more than normal winter precipitation in a given area.

During the warm season, native plants gardens should be carefully watered to keep them a little tidier than the appearance of their corresponding wild places. This is where the gardener has to be careful. Since natives are using so little water compared to most garden plants, they will not succeed if planted in mixed plantings with other plants that get copious irrigation. The natives will succumb to root rot, because they are not using the water and the roots will be deprived of oxygen in the over-watered soil. Root rot water molds thrive in warm soils that are overly wet. Soils are warm near the surface.

> "A good rule of thumb is to apply the equivalent of a rain event totaling 1 to 1 ½" about once a month, May through October. –Mike Evans

Watering native plants in summer is easy. First, trust the plants to truly be drought tolerant. Next, know that the goal is to promote root systems that grow in cool moist soil, at a depth of 14-20". You can achieve this by watering thoroughly and infrequently. A good rule of thumb is to apply the equivalent of a rain event totaling 1 to 1 ½", about once a month, May through October.

A good way to simulate a monthly rain event in summer is to apply water in the early morning during cool spells. Soak the soil once a day for three consecutive days, for a sprinkler run time of up to 2 hours total. Each 3-day process is considered an irrigation event, and you will only do 5 or 6 of these a year. In between irrigations, you can cool your garden with an occasional light refreshing sprinkle, once or twice a week in the late afternoon. This might mean a sprinkler run time of 5 minutes. You are not watering the soil; you are only wetting the leaves. Irrigation events are more important than refreshing sprinkles. Combined, they will result in beautiful healthy natural gardens.

Much, much more info about watering your native garden is available in our "Watering Native Plants" guide: californianativeplants.com/wateringnativeplants.



Rain over the Tree of Life Nursery

Mike Evans
CNPS Orange County Chapter
and founder of the Tree of Life Nursery,
San Juan Capistrano

Restoring Nature One Garden at a Time

New CNPS Outreach Coordinator Propels Our Mission

Native plant gardening is not just a hobby, it's a cause—a movement to restore our connection with nature, conserve natural resources, and provide much-needed habitat for pollinators and other creatures.

Together, the CNPS community has helped transform the way Californians view gardening. Simultaneously, the drought has necessitated a new public understanding of our limited resources and the impracticality of traditional lawn-based landscapes.

Today, we have a real chance to "mainstream" California native plant gardens, reaching a scale of adoption that changes entire communities for the better. We're now witnessing a groundswell of partner organizations and individuals each playing a part in moving this revolution forward. From conservation gardening initiatives like the Habitat Corridor Project in Northern California to the outstanding workshops and expertise offered through partner organizations like Theodore Payne, the Jepson Herbarium, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, we're knitting a collective quilt to preserve and promote our California botanical treasures.

Here at CNPS, we believe our role is both inspirational and practical. We're working to reach new groups of people, young and old, with reasons to believe in native plant gardening beyond "drought friendly." We want people to know they are a part of something big -- and something beautiful. On the practical side, we want to connect the dots between the desire to plant natives and the how-to of successful gardening. Using Calscape.org and other digital platforms like blogging, social media, and live video, we'll be working to reach larger audiences than ever before, connecting them with the local resources they need.

To help us move this exciting cause forward, I'm very happy to share that we've recently hired Kristen Wernick (see Kristen's bio below) as our new horticulture Outreach Coordinator. As part of the team based in Sacramento, she'll be reaching out to nurseries, water districts, partner organizations, and others to build partnerships and expand our reach. We envision a not-too-distant future with thriving native plant nurseries up and down the state, where native plant gardens are the norm not the exception, where HOAs embrace lawn-free yards, and a new generation of Californians is raised with the principles of conservation gardening. Working with many of you, we know the future looks bright.

We'd love hear from you! Please reach out and share your ideas, questions, and suggestions. lokeeffe@cnps.org or kwernick@cnps.org.

Liv O'Keeffe
CNPS Marketing and Communications

> "Today, we have a real chance to 'mainstream' California native plant gardens, reaching a scale of adoption that changes entire communities for the better.

Introducing Kristen Wernick
CNPS Outreach Coordinator



Kristen Wernick

Kristen Wernick is a California native plant and horticulture enthusiast with a passion for teaching and engaging others in native plant gardening. She is a graduate of UCSB in Environmental Studies, has an A.S. in Landscape Design from Saddleback College, and most recently has been working with the Santa Margarita Water District as a Water Use Efficiency Specialist. In that role, Kristen worked with homeowners, homeowner associations, city governments, and more to increase adoption of native plants as a means to greater water efficiency. Kristen is excited to share her passion for CA native plant horticulture with others, and ultimately restore nature one garden at a time. When she isn't chatting up others about plants or perusing nurseries and plant books, Kristen enjoys catching up with friends and family, practicing Ashtanga yoga, and being active outdoors.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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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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- Off-Highway Vehicle Reform
- Jennifer Jewell Interview
- Long Beach Plant Culture
- Spring Garden Tour
- Big Sur BioBlitz
- Kids Corner: Drawing

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