



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MAY-JUNE 1996

EVENTS

Chapter meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on the third Thursday of the month. NO MONTHLY MEETINGS OR NEWSLETTERS IN JULY AND AUGUST; SUMMER FIELD TRIPS WILL BE ANNOUNCED THROUGH SPECIAL MAILINGS!

Thursday, May 16, 7:30PM:
MONTHLY PROGRAM. 7:00PM, Plant ID -- great introduction or refresher to keying skills; **7:30, PROGRAM, RT Hawke, Plants of the San Gabriel Mountains.** Chapter field trip chair RT Hawke will present selections from his slides of local mountain flora. Test your knowledge and warm up for the weekend's wildflower festival at this "show and tell" program (he shows, we tell.)

Friday, May 17, 7PM--Sunday, 2PM, May 19: Wrightwood Wildflower Weekend. Join RT Hawke, Shaun Hawke, and Nigel Hancock for 2 full days of botanizing and camping in the beautiful high country of the rugged San Gabriel Mountains. The high elevation and relative isolation of this mountain range have fostered numerous rare and endangered plant species and a diverse flora of interest to beginning and expert botanists alike. Camping is available at Table Mt Campground, a USFS facility located in a

beautiful Yellow Pine forest; camping fee is \$24 for both nights, and payment **must** accompany registration to secure a site. (Alternate motel accommodations are available in nearby Wrightwood.) To register, send names and addresses of participants and campground fee to: RT Hawke, PO Box 333, Wrightwood, CA 92397; 619/249-3431.

Thursday, June 20, 7 PM:
MONTHLY PROGRAM. Summer Solstice in Eaton Canyon. Nature Center Naturalist Mickey Long leads a midsummer ramble through our home turf of Eaton Canyon. We'll identify the flowers, shrubs, and trees of the canyon, and maybe spot a few birds, too. The walk will begin **promptly at 7 PM**, to take advantage of what is nearly the longest evening of the year.

Saturday, June 1: FIELD TRIP. Vernal Pools in the San Diego area. The Orange County Chapter has organized this trip to a number of vernal pools in and around San Diego, showing the endemic species of these ephemeral habitats. A perfect preparation for June 19's Vernal Pool Symposium in Sacramento (see p. 2). Tony Bomkamp, leader; call Sarah Jayne for exact locations, details, at 714) 552-0691.

Saturday, June 22, 9 AM: FIELD TRIP. Interpretative walk and work day in Elyria Canyon. The Elyria Canyon Conservancy and Rhapsody in Green cosponsor this visit to an urban jewel: a 40- acre parcel on Mt. Washington that includes walnut woodland, coastal sage scrub, and even remnant bunch grasses. The restoration of Elyria was a real community project, assisted by Northeast Trees and our own CNPS chapter. The walk begins at the restored red barn beyond Wollam Rd (San Fernando s to Division, e on Division, r on Wollam). For details and better directions call Jerry Schneider, (213) 225-2748.

UPCOMING SYMPOSIA ON FORESTS, VERNAL POOLS

From the ancient to the ephemeral, two of California's endangered ecosystems will be examined by upcoming conferences. On Sunday, May 19, the Sierra Club's Ancient Forest task force will probe behind the "beauty strip" in its second annual forest conference. **"Forests for the 21st Century,"** to be held from 9 AM to 4PM at Farnsworth Park (corner of Lake and Mt. Curve, Altadena) will assemble some of the nation's most thoughtful and passionate forest activists, including Jeff DeBonis, Forest Service employee and founder of AFSEEE (Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics), Tim Hermach of the Native Forest Council, and Jeffrey St. Clair, editor of *Wild Forest Review*. For more information, contact Patti Laursen at (213) 257-2775 or Ned Boyer, (818) 792-2284.

A Conference on Vernal Pool

Ecosystems will be held in Sacramento from June 19-21. The conference, which is sponsored by the CNPS, the Western Section of the Wildlife Society, and the California Section of the Society for Ecological Restoration, will feature a keynote address by Michael Barbour, followed by four sessions: Past and Present Distribution and Physical and Biological Characterization, chaired by Ellen Bauder; Plants, Animals, and Ecosystem -- Ecology, Systematics, Status & Trends, chaired by Robert Ornduff and Denton Belk; Conservation and Management, chaired by Wayne Ferren; and Regulatory, Planning and Policy Issues, chaired by Cay Goude. Registration for CNPS members is \$160 (includes 3 luncheons) before May 20. To register, call William Hull, (510) 465-4962.

ANOTHER SUIT FILED AGAINST US FISH AND WILDLIFE

The Biodiversity Legal Foundation has filed suit against the FWS for violation of the ESA and other laws for eliminating nearly 4000 species from consideration as "formal candidates" for ESA protection. The agency announced in February that it would no longer consider what had been "Category 2" species as candidates for listing. Jason Carter of the BLF said, "The C-2 candidate list provided the public, scientific community, and state and federal agencies with essential information on species that are in trouble and that may be listed, thus encouraging reasonable land use planning and habitat protection... the FWS has thrown out one of the most effective tools available to prevent species from becoming endangered."

-- *David Chipping, San Luis Obispo*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Until June 1: THEODORE PAYNE FDN. WILDFLOWER HOTLINE - 818/768-3533.

May 3-5, Fri night-Sun: AFTON CANYON WORK/PLAY WEEKEND. Santa Monica Mtns Chapter car camping field trip with tamarisk-bashing & outings to various high desert plant communities. 4-wheel drive recommended. Reservations required. For details call 818/881-3706.

May 5, Sun: CONEJO MTN. IN THE SANTA MONICA MTNS. Orange County Chapter outing to see four unusual Dudleyas as well as the rare Conejo Buckwheat. Leader: Tony Bomkamp. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714/552-0691.

May 11, Sat: SAN ONOFRE STATE PARK. Orange County Chapter trip exploring some recent botanical finds including the rediscovery of the presumed extinct Catalina Desert-Thorn. Leader: Tony Bomkamp. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714/552-0691.

May 11, Sat, 9:30 am: NATURE HIKE AT SANTA ROSA PLATEAU. Meet at Granite Loop trailhead at the end of the parking lot at the first entrance to the Reserve. For details call 909/677-6951.

May 12, Sat, 9 am: WILDFLOWER WALK IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS. Santa Monica Mtns Chapter CNPS. Meet at 9 am at Taft High School parking lot (Winnetka & Ventura) or 8:45 am at the Federal Bldg. parking lot (Sepulveda & Wilshire in Westwood).

May 16, Thurs, 7 pm: PLANT ID; OUR MONTHLY PROGRAM, SAN GABRIEL MTNS FLORA SLIDE SHOW by our own R. T. Hawke, see pg 1.

May 18, Sat, 9:30 am: NATURE HIKE AT SANTA ROSA PLATEAU. Meet at Granite Loop trailhead at the end of the parking lot at the first entrance to the Reserve. For details call 909/677-6951.

May 19-20, Sat-Sun: WRIGHTWOOD WILDFLOWER WEEKEND. See p. 1.

May 21, Mon, 6:45 pm: EVENING IN THE ARROYO, Pasadena Sierra Club. Easy hike on level trails through the lower Arroyo Seco. Call David Czamanske for details, meeting place; 818/441-8916.

May 29, Wed, 6 pm: CHANTRY FLATS, Friends of Big Santa Anita Cyn. Hike to ruins at Fern Lodge. Details Tina Chamly, 818/963-1372.

June 1, Sat: VERNAL POOLS IN SAN DIEGO AREA. Orange County Chapter trip to see some of the unusual, often endangered, endemic species that inhabit these ephemeral habitats. Leader: Tony Bomkamp. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714/552-0691.

June 19-21, Wed-Fri: Conference on Ecology of Vernal Pools, sponsored by CNPS, Society for Ecological Restoration, the Wildlife Society; Sacramento. See p. 2.

June 20, Thurs, 7 pm: OUR MONTHLY PROGRAM; A TWILIGHT WALK IN EATON CANYON with Mickey Long, includes plant identification, see pg. 1.

June 21-23, Fri night-Sun: KINGS CANYON FIELD TRIP WITH JIM SHEVOCK. Santa Monica Mtns Chapter trip with State CNPS Plant Programs VP & southern Sierra plant expert. Reservations required. For information call 818/881-3706.

June 22, Sat, 9 am: FIELD TRIP, ELYRIA CANYON. See p. 1.

June 22, Sat: JAMES RESERVE, IDYLLWILD: Orange County Chapter outing to see displays of Burning Bush & other shrubs & wildflowers. Leader: Tony Bomkamp. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714/552-0691.

July 13, Sat: SUGAR-LOAF MTN IN THE SAN BERNARDINO MTNS. Orange County Chapter trip will explore the eastern end of this range where Pinyon pines meet Lodgepole & Jeffrey pines with nearly 100 other species to be seen. Leader: Tony Bomkamp. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714/552-0691.

July 19-21, Sat-Sun: QUAKING ASPEN FIELD TRIP. Annual camping weekend hosted by Pasadena Sierra Club in giant sequoia habitat. Details Bonnie Strand, 818/247-6398.

The Newsletter of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is published bi-monthly and is free to Chapter members. Non-member subscription is \$5.00. To join the California Native Plant Society, write to CNPS, 909 12th St., Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814; specify San Gabriel Mountains Chapter. Enclose check payable to CNPS. Membership: Individual/Library - \$35; Student/Retired/Limited Income - \$20; Family/Group - \$45; Supporting - \$75.

CNPS DOWNSIZES; SKINNER TO LEAVE

AT&T cut 30,000; the CNPS, 1. But the impact on native plant lovers was comparable, since that one was Mark Skinner, well-known CNPS botanist. In a letter of March 12 (see insert), President George Clark explained that the

controversial move was made only after much painful assessment of the organization's long-standing financial crisis. He emphasized that the Rare Plant Program will continue to be fully supported, since assistant botanist David Tibor will remain as Rare Plant Database Botanist. Nevertheless, the move by the

See p. 5

California Native Plant Society

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12 March 1996

To: Executive Board, Rare Plant, and Plant Communities Chairs and Committees

Subject: CNPS Budget and Restructuring

The last month has been particularly tough for those involved in planning and maintaining the course of CNPS. As outlined below, we found that our present financial status required some significant changes in CNPS operations. This memo provides background and describes the actions which have been taken.

The recently completed audit of CNPS' financial records revealed that:

- Our bookkeeping, although greatly improved over the last year, did not provide the necessary information for day-to-day financial management and for financial planning.
- CNPS expenditures have markedly exceeded income for the past two years; we are doing more than we can presently afford.
- In part because of a substantial increase in inventory last year, we are experiencing a significant present cash flow problem.
- Immediate reduction of expenditures is required to avoid financial problems.

In the month since receipt of the audit, we have:

- Had a Budget Review Committee (chaired by Ray Butler and including the program Vice Presidents) review our budget, financial status, and program direction. The budget was modified to remove all non-essential or deferrable items. Nonetheless, further reduction of expenditures was required.
- Had subsequent reviews of the budget by our Finance committee, chaired by Steve Hartman, and the Budget Committee under Bob Berka and myself, with participation of program and administrative Vice Presidents.
- Instituted a new bookkeeping system (based on QuickBooks software) and, with the help of member Greg Jirak, almost completed a revision of our accounting system. Further changes to improve CNPS financial operations are being developed by the Finance Committee.
- Realized that we cannot presently continue at the present staff level.
- Reaffirmed that there are four present principal components of state CNPS activities: operations (the state office), conservation (including legislation), plant science, and education (including publications), and that all are important and of great value.
- Based on the above considerations, formulated and implemented a corrective course of action, which will maintain the ability of CNPS to accomplish its mission and retain its financial solvency.



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora




The actions which have been taken are:

- Cutting, pruning, and trimming all non-staff program expenditures to the maximum extent possible while maintaining the critical portions.
- Deciding that the position of legislative advocate, recently vacated by Kathryn Lodato's resignation, will not be filled for the foreseeable future.
- Reduction of the CNPS plant science staff to one by discontinuing the position of CNPS botanist, and laying off Mark Skinner who had occupied the position. This will obviously result in a reduction in effort devoted to rare plant science. A most important consideration is to keep the CNPS rare plant database current and functional. The position of assistant botanist, presently occupied by David Tibor, may be modified to reflect his responsibilities, which will focus primarily on ensuring that the CNPS rare plant data base is maintained in its completely up to date state. The position will be retitled Rare Plant Database Botanist. David will continue to devote a certain portion of his time to responding to chapter and other requests for information. Decisions on the status of plants to be changed or added in the *Inventory* will be made by the CNPS Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee. If funds become available as a result of our membership drive or by other means, the plant science program will be strengthened and redirected. This will be accomplished by employing a botanist devoted to developing and managing (with particular emphasis on quality) our vegetation communities program.

Mark Skinner has been an important, effective, and dedicated advocate for California's rare plants for the past six years. He brought competence, knowledge, and meticulous and scrupulous scientific honesty and care to our data base. The fifth edition of the *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*, and the electronic version of the *Inventory*, which included much new information, were based primarily on his hard and careful work. He has greatly improved the content of our rare plant program database and its supporting documentation. We will be poorer without him, and regret the necessity of revising our program, and also regret the budget problems which forced this decision on us now.

The above actions have not been taken lightly. They are believed by those involved with the decisions to be the best means of solving our immediate financial problems and maintaining the long term viability of CNPS as an effective and important voice for California's wonderful and diverse flora.

I will be pleased to discuss these decisions with any member.


George M. Clark
President
(916) 355-4362 (w)
(916) 988-6919 (h)

Skinner, continued

State Board has generated angry response from many chapters, who feel they were not adequately consulted on such a serious matter.

In another belt-tightening measure, the position of legislative advocate, vacated by Kathryn Lodato's resignation, will not be filled.

CNPS ONLINE

Net-heads should be sure to visit the CNPS website, set up by David Chipping, at:
http://www.calpoly.edu/~dchippin/cnps_main.html

SCOW SEEKS SLIDES

Jan Scow, CNPS land management analyst for Southern California, is soliciting members' slides for a packaged presentation on CNPS activities. The purpose of the slide show, which will show who CNPS is and what we do, is to recruit new members, encourage existing members to be more active, and maybe procure financial report for the organization. There will be multiple copies of the program available for chapter presentations and for the State office.

To construct a visual narrative he needs slides of:

- undisturbed but **unprotected** Cal. native landscapes

- what replaces that landscape (e.g. large developments)
- the process of replacement (e.g. bulldozers destroying habitat)
- successful land reserves (e.g. Santa Monica Conservancy, Nature Conservancy)
- CNPS field trips and other activities: meetings, weed wars
- documentation of invasive exotics

Jan welcomes any input on content or format. To contribute slides or to comment, call him at (213) 299-3795.

CNPS SUPPORTS SPENDING LIMITS MEASURE

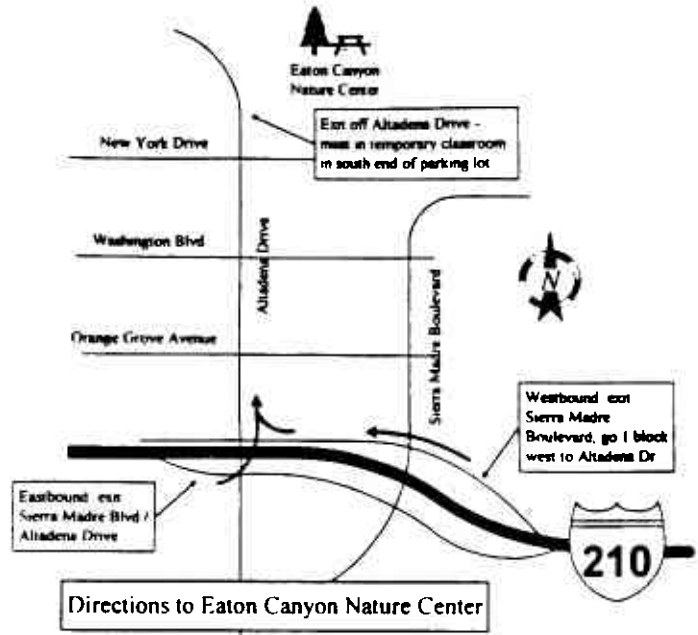
The state CNPS has joined with the PCL and other environmental groups in supporting an initiative currently collecting signatures to qualify for the ballot. The initiative, sponsored by "Californians Against Political Corruption," would: limit an individual's contributions per candidate to \$200 per statewide office and \$100 for most other offices, although committees of small contributors could contribute 100 times this much; ban contributions from businesses, unions, banks, and non-profit organizations; and prohibit tax deductions for lobbying expenses.

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION

THE SHY TULIP MURDERS, third in Rebecca Rothenberg's series of native plant mysteries, is now available in hardcover at most bookstores (Mysterious Press, \$21.00)

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