



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 1997

IN THIS ISSUE:

From the Editor	1
Chapter Events	2
CNPS News	3
President's Message	3
For Your Information.....	4
<i>California's Wild Gardens</i>	4
The Native Bookshelf	5
Bookshelf Notes	5
Native.net	5
Chapter Information	6
Map	6



DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 20, Thurs., 7:00 pm: *Using all the Sources or How to Cheat if You Haven't Had a College Course* (Session III of the Plant I.D. workshops) with Mickey Long

NATIVE HOLIDAY GREENERY

Most of us associate the winter holidays with decorations of evergreens—pine and fir trees, holly, mistletoe. For over 10 years I've been making a large wreath to hang next to the front door of The Gamble House in Pasadena. During the Art & Crafts era (1895-1915) Christmas was seen as a time to use the materials at hand rather than go to great expense in expressing the Christmas spirit. Of course most of the promoters of this ideal lived in the East where traditional greenery was readily available. But there are many California native plants equally suitable for holiday decorating.

For a number of years I used whatever ornamental juniper I could find in my garden or a friend's as the background material for The Gamble House wreath. But now I use lots of small branches with the glossy dark green leaves of sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), one of the more common foothill shrubs. By the time the Rose Parade has come and gone the sugar bush leaves are still looking fresh. Its pink and white flower buds add a subtle bit of color and contrasting texture. Set into the leaves are a variety of cones from Southern California trees. The cinnamon-colored papery ones are from Big-cone Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*), a purely southern California tree which grows densely in Big Santa Anita Canyon. The small dark-tipped cones are from lodgepole pines (*Pinus contorta murrayana*) along the Pacific Crest Trail between Mt. Burnham and Mt. Baden-Powell. The largest cones belong to Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), one of two species with fragrant bark.



Pseudotsuga macrocarpa
BIG-CONE DOUGLAS

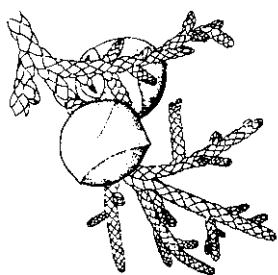


Heteromeles arbutifolia
TOYON

Other local native plants that can be used for holiday decor include: the red berries of Toyon or California Holly (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), the plant that gave Hollywood its name;

cont. on page 2

the fragrant leaves of California Bay Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*); small branches of California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*); the branches of any species of Manzanita with their long-lasting leaves and smooth russet bark; the dark prickly leaves of Oregon grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*) that create the same effect as holly from the florist; sprays of bright green Incense Cedar (*Calocedrus decurrans*); or even one of our native



Juniperus californica
CALIFORNIA JUNIPER

junipers (*Juniperus californica* or *J. osteosperma*) with their silvery cones. If you have planted

natives in your garden or have friends or neighbors who have, give a new meaning to Christmas in California this holiday season by using them in your home.

—Kathy

FOREST GREENERY

If you don't have any suitable California native plants in your home landscape, the Forest Service will allow you to collect the following material without a permit:

- 10 pine cones, open & on the ground
- 1 dead yucca stalk
- 1 dead manzanita branch
- 1 grocery bag of mistletoe

To collect other material or additional quantities, please call the Santa Anita office, 626-574-5200.

CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the third Thursday of the month. No meeting in December.

PROGRAM

Nov. 20, Thurs., 7:00 pm: Using all the Sources or How to Cheat if You Haven't Had a College Course

(Session III of the Plant I.D. workshops) with Mickey Long
\$7.00 donation requested. See **Family Values**, page 3.

- ☼ we'll try keying
- ☼ we'll use picture books (color vs. black & white)
- ☼ the wonderful Abrams set
- ☼ local Floras make it easier
- ☼ samples of plants lists made in the field for Environmental Impact purposes



SPECIAL CHAPTER EVENT

All around the country, November is election month and our Chapter will be voting on the following slate for Board of Directors at our meeting on Nov. 20.

PRESIDENT: Becky Rothenberg

VICE-PRESIDENT:

TREASURER: Virginia Iser

PROGRAMS:

NEWSLETTER: Kathy LaShure

MEMBERSHIP: Sharon Green

CONSERVATION: Rick Fisher

FIELD TRIPS: R. T. Hawke

RARE PLANTS: Mickey Long, R. T. Hawke

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Eva Morgan, Gabi McLean



HELP STILL!

The Newsletter Committee (Becky, Kathy and Sharon) like each others company quite well, but sometimes we aren't all available when the newsletter needs to be folded, stapled, labeled, sorted, transported to the Post Office. Are there any other members who would be willing to help with some of these tasks some time? Your help would be greatly appreciated and you just might be privy to some botanical gossip!

WANTED —

CNPS NEWS

JAN SCOW RESIGNS

Regional Conservationists got a big boost a few years ago when the State CNPS decided to fund a part-time land management analyst for Southern California in addition to its full-time analyst, Emily Roberson. Arborist and long-time CNPS member Jan Scow was hired to fill the new position. Unfortunately, it soon became clear to everyone—especially to Jan—that it was unrealistic to expect a part-time person to monitor land issues from San Diego to Kern County, and in August Jan regretfully submitted his resignation, effective as of September.

As land management analyst, Jan paid particular attention to the massive Newhall Land Project in the Santa Clarita Valley; he represented the interests of native vegetation in a number of cogent, thorough comments on draft EIRs, and gave presentations on the proposed development to all local CNPS chapters. He also worked on the proposed HCPs for San Diego and the Valley Floor in Kern County, and helped to formulate CNPS policy on HCPs and NCCPs. And Jan was a much needed unifying force. His quarterly reports and all-chapter meetings helped the Southern California CNPS keep current with conservation issues in the region.

Clearly the CNPS should continue this position, though the amount and focus of the work need to be reevaluated in light of Jan's experience. On Friday, November 7, local chapters will meet at the home of Halli Mason to discuss the future of a land management analyst for Southern California. If you have opinions you wish represented, or would like to attend the meeting, call Becky Rothenberg at 626-797-2494.



CALL FOR SLIDES

Your help is needed to complete the CNPS book *Wild Lilies, Irises and Grasses: California's Monocots in the Garden*. We are looking for good slides of a number of native monocot species—individual plant portraits as well as plants in garden settings. For more information and a list of species sought contact Kristin Jacob, 289 Tamalpais Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941-1084 or telephone 415-388-1844.

For the same publication, we are also updating our resources section and would appreciate current information on local nurseries and public display gardens that feature or specialize in California native plants.

FAMILY VALUES

Mr. Muns' Neighborhood is a friendly place; he knows all the families on the block and all their peculiarities. In fact, when a new kid shows up, he immediately knows who the little fellow is related to—that scruffy, irregular Scroph kid, the sweet little Pea kids with their unfortunate pods. Those of us who attended Muns' workshops in Plant Family ID were a little overwhelmed by information at first, but by the second session we were beginning to find our feet. And armed with some of Muns' elegant and encyclopedic handouts, we can probably place the new kid on the block, too.

For the last workshop in the series (Thursday, November 20, 7 pm), Mickey Long will take a different approach to field ID, demonstrating a number of techniques that avoid the dreaded “K-word”: keying (see Mickey's class description on page 2).

There's no avoiding the K-word when it comes to the Chapter's Board, however, because one key position remains to be filled, that of Program Chair. How about some volunteers? It's not as daunting a task as it might seem, since we already have a number of program ideas; the Chair would have to make the phone calls and schedule the speakers. We need to have a candidate for Program Chair before we vote on the Chapter board, so please contact Becky Rothenberg or Kathy LaShure if you're willing to try your hand at this position.

—Becky



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For \$5.00 per issue you may advertise in our newsletter. For information call Kathy at 626-355-7064. We will continue to publish notices from not-for-profit groups for free.

HORTUS **West** Magazine

Our source directory lists **thousands** of western native plants & seeds (even hard-to-find **xeric** & habitat restoration species) *and* the nurseries selling them!

800-704-7927

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for future
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OF CALIFORNIA



The California Native Plant Society is a member of Earth Share of California, a Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment. If Earth Share is not part of your payroll deduction plan in your work-place, please let us know. We would like to change that!

Contact Halli Mason, 818-345-6749, for information.

The California Department of Fish & Game and the California Native Plant Society proudly present:

CALIFORNIA'S WILD GARDENS

EDITED BY PHYLLIS M. FABER

California's Wild Gardens: A Living Legacy takes the reader to over one hundred special places in California for a glimpse of the state's unique botanical legacy. California can boast of having the tallest tree in the world, the coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*); the largest tree ever to have lived, Sierra Nevada's giant sequoia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*); and from high up in the arid White Mountains, at nearly 5000 years of age, the oldest trees still living, the bristlecone pines (*Pinus longaeva*). Background material is provided to increase an understanding of each site's physical setting as well as its conservation status. Individual authors were selected as guides because of their familiarity with a site and its flora. This book, five years in preparation, presents a fascinating overview of some of California's finest wild gardens.

1997, CNPS PRESS, 9' X 12"; 248 PAGES WITH 500 COLOR PHOTO-GRAPHS PLUS MAP. \$42.95 HARDCOVER; \$29.95 SOFTCOVER.

AVAILABLE FROM THE STATE OFFICE AT 916-447-2677

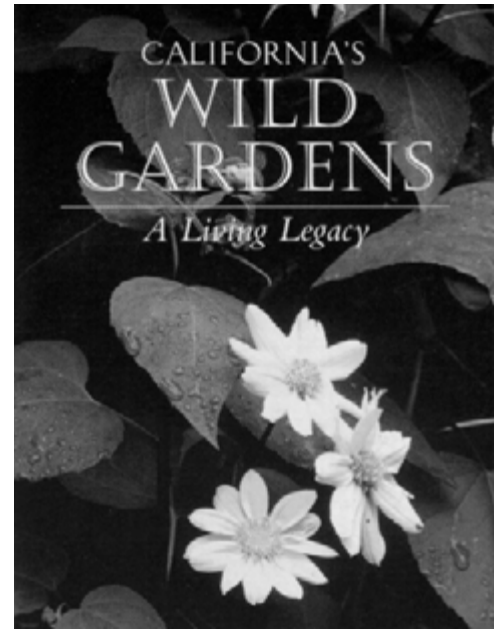
Editor's Note: Look for a review of this book in the next newsletter. I can't wait to see a copy myself and I am sure it would make a

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, 1722 J St., Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814; please specify San Gabriel Mountains Chapter.

Enclose check payable to CNPS. Membership categories: Individual/Library - \$35; Student/Retired/Limited Income - \$20; Family/Group - \$45; Supporting - \$75.

fantastic holiday gift.



THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

Orion Magazine

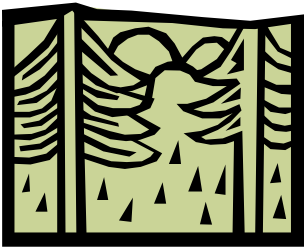
Published quarterly by The Orion Society & The Myrin Institute
195 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230
single issue \$7.00; membership \$25.00

Finding Home: Writing on Nature and Culture from Orion Magazine
edited by Peter Sauer
Beacon Press, 1992, \$16.00 paperback

My love of nature writing began with Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard over twenty years ago. Since reading it I've consumed book after book about the natural world, some classics, some obscure, some old, some new. But somehow I'd missed Orion and I don't know why. Since 1982 it has been faithfully publishing the work of many of my favorite authors—Barry Lopez, Terry Tempest Williams, Gary Paul Nabhan, Diana Kappel-Smith.

This summer I picked up a copy of their 15th anniversary issue devoted to "People and Nature" and was hooked. It is a beautiful publication with essays, poetry, reviews, art and photography *and no ads*. I was particularly moved by Diana Kappel-Smith's "Sequoia," in which her pilgrimage to the ancient Sierra trees evokes an earlier journey into the hidden roots of her family tree. "Living Downstream," an excerpt from ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber's new book, delves into the enormous body of evidence linking cancer and pollution. It is clear that the magazine fulfills its goal "to help us deepen our personal connection with the natural world as a source of enrichment and inner renewal."

If you'd like to sample the variety and high quality of writing in Orion without subscribing, I can recommend *Finding Home*, a collection of 19 essays that explore a changing culture's way of living with a changing natural world. Here are geographers, biologists and ecologists exploring the concept that pristine wilderness has been shaped by human culture over the centuries. Their writings ask how and why we must understand



the biological and spiritual bonds between culture and nature. Barbara Dean's ruminations in "Hunting a Christmas Tree" have a special significance at this time of year. Even though most of us will not be cutting our own trees on our own land, we still can ponder the complex connections of all life, not just the scientific explanations but how those

connections feel. Other essays explore the connections between America's naturalist legacies and those of other world cultures. Still others reveal the importance of the natural world for our children.

Either Orion Magazine or *Finding Home* would make a wonderful holiday gift!

BOOKSHELF NOTES

If you've been attending our Plant I.D. workshops and would like to know more about the subject, here are some books that you should find helpful.

Guide to the Flowering Plants
Wendy S. Zomlefer
Univ. of N. Carolina Press, 1995
paperback, \$27.50

How to Identify Plants
H. D. Harrington
Ohio University Press, 1997
paperback, \$11.95

Vascular Plant Families
James P. Smith, Jr.
Mad River Press, 1977
paperback, \$19.95

The Plant Book: A Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants (2nd edition)
D. J. Mabberly
Cambridge Univ. Press, 1997
hardcover, \$49.95

NATIVE.NET

Featuring websites of interest to our members. Please pass on any suggestions for future offerings to the Editor at the following address: encelia@gte.net.

<http://www.orionsociety.org>
This is the site for The Orion Society (see Native Bookshelf article to the left). It features descriptions of their environmental and grassroots initiatives, "Good Works" with information about new books, essays and other literary happenings, and membership order forms.



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6

Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs & professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding & appreciation of California's native plants & to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, & conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal Fremontia, the quarterly Bulletin which gives statewide news & announcements of Society activities & conservation issues, & the chapter newsletter.



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