



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 1999

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
From the Editor	2
Chapter Events	2
Special Events	2
The Native Bookshelf	3
Native.net	3
Chapter Information	6
Map	6

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 10, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean.

Jan. 21, Thurs., 7:30 pm: *Life History of the California Sycamore* by Dick Vogl.

Feb. 13, Sat. 10 am: *Wildflower Garden Dedication* at Eaton Canyon

Feb 14, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Rick Fisher.

Feb. 18, Thurs., 7:30 pm: *The Latest in California Native Cultivars* by Bart O'Brien.

WELCOME!

New members

Tom Brady of La Crescenta
Katherine J. Allen of Pearblossom
Rob Wagner of Los Angeles

New Growth at Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Those who attended the Dedication of the new Nature Center building at Eaton Canyon Park, or who have been by since, also noticed some native plantings alongside the marvelous new edifice. These new plantings were paid for by the FEMA grant that also rebuilt the majority of the new building, and they serve as the beginnings of the new Nature Center landscape.

The Nature Center landscape when finished will consist of 3 primary elements: a Plant Communities Demonstration Garden, a Fire-Safe Native Planting surrounding the building, and a Bird & Insect Habitat & Observation Garden.

The Plant Communities Garden, located primarily between the building and the parking lot, will serve to further the educational mission of the center's interpretive displays (sort of an outdoor classroom), providing examples of Oak Woodland, Coastal Sage, Riparian Woodland, Alluvial Scrub and Chaparral plant assemblages. Also included in this area will be a California Native Wildflower Garden (see below).

The plantings immediately around the building will demonstrate the use of local native plants and native-derived hybrids for fire-safe landscaping. The first zone next to the building will be comprised of low-growing moisture-loving species, while the secondary area slightly away from the building will be comprised of low-growing/low-fuel volume drought tolerant species.

The area behind the building and to the north will become the Bird & Insect Habitat and Observation Garden. Construction/implementation of this area has not begun yet, but fundraising is currently underway. Plans are also underway for an outdoor amphitheater to be located in the south end of the park near the Nature Center (more news on that to follow).

CNPS's role in developing and maintaining the garden has been clear from the outset. As the construction period come to a close, we are forming a volunteer garden support group that will meet monthly and help maintain and expand the garden. This is an excellent opportunity to help pay the CNPS dues for our use of the facility, and to learn hands-on from top native plant horticulturalists.

In Memory: A Wildflower Garden

Come Saturday, February 13 at 10 AM to help us dedicate the new Wildflower Garden at Eaton Canyon Nature Center to the memory of Becky Rothenberg. Attendees will literally and metaphorically help sow the seeds of remembrance and rebirth. Also, the newly completed special library collection will be on display inside the Nature Center Library. Meet in parking lot immediately north of the building.

MORE ABOUT BOOKS

I offer the following suggestions for donations to the Becky Rothenberg collection at the new Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Some are out-of-print classics worth searching out; others are from current authors. The Board will be purchasing books but would welcome additional gifts. The collection will focus on natural history, especially related to California and the West.

any books by John Muir, Henry David Thoreau, Barry Lopez, John McPhee, Gary Nabhan, Ann Zwinger

Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
Mary Austin, *The Land of Little Rain*
Wendell Berry, *The Long-Legged House*
Janice Emily Bowers, *The Mountains Next Door and Fear Falls Away*
William Brewer, *Up & Down California*
Rachel Carson, *The Sea Around Us*
J. Smeaton Chase, *California Desert Trails, California Coast Trails and Yosemite Trails*
David Darlington, *In Condor Country*
Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Gretel Erlich, *The Solace of Open Spaces*
Ralph W. Emerson, *Collected Essays*
Marcy Houle, *Wings for My Flight*
Edmund Jaeger, *Denizens of the Desert*
Diana Kappel-Smith, *Desert Time*
Joseph LeConte, *Ramblings in the High Sierra*
Margaret Murie, *Two in the Far North*
Richard Nelson, *Make Prayers to the Raven*
Lester Rowntree, *Hardy Californians and Flowering Shrubs of California*
Charles Francis Saunders, *With the Flowers and Trees in California and Under the Sky in California*
Wallace Stegner, *Wolf Willow and The Sound of Mountain Water*
John C. Van Dyke, *The Desert*
Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge*

CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the third Thursday of the month.

PROGRAMS

Jan. 21, Thurs., 7:30 pm: *Life History of the California Sycamore* by Dick Vogl, Professor Emeritus, Cal State LA. He will be sharing his insights gained from 35 years of studying the riparian communities that are home to this beautiful California tree.

Feb. 13, Sat. 10 am: *Wildflower Garden Dedication* at Eaton Canyon

Feb. 18, Thurs., 7:30 pm: *The Latest in California Native Cultivars* by Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. Learn about the newest native beauties for your home garden.

OUTINGS

Jan. 10, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean. How has the cold dry winter weather affected our local flora?

Feb 14, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Rick Fisher. The days are getting longer; are there signs of spring?

SPECIAL EVENTS

The fourth *Out of the Wild and Into the Garden* Symposium, co-sponsored by RSABG's Education and Horticulture Departments, is due to be held on **March 25-27, 1999** at Rancho Santa Ana and the Claremont School of Theology. For more information on this event, including an updated list of speakers (including our own **Rick Fisher**) and detailed registration information call (909) 625-8767.

The *Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign* is hosting a conference for forest protection activists in the southern Sierra Nevada. It will be held on **Saturday, January 30, 9am-5:30pm** at Lake Isabella, CA. The conference will cover the following major topics: new science findings from the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project report; defending the southern Sierra Nevada from timber cutting, road building and other destructive activities; permanent protection for Sequoia groves; Forest Service regional plan for the Sierra Nevada; fire management issues. There will be speakers, workshops and a slide presentation. Lunch and child care will be provided for those who attend. This will be a great opportunity to meet fellow activists and to learn how to be more effective forest defenders. If you are interested in protection of "The Range of Light" this is an important **free** event that should not be missed. Please contact Bob Brister, Outreach Coordinator, Sierra Nevada Forest Protection Campaign, PO Box 2808, Oakhurst, CA 93644; (209) 641-7427; sierra_outreach@friendsoftheriver.org
Ed Note: Bob Brister will be presenting our June program.

THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

California's Wilderness Areas: The Complete Guide
Volume I: Mountains and Coastal Ranges; Volume II: The Deserts
George Wuerthner
Westcliffe Publishers, 1997 & 1998, \$27.95 each

Besides being known as the "Golden State," California can rightly be called the "Wilderness State;" we have the most federally designated wildlands (over 13.8 million acres) in the U.S. outside of Alaska. The roadless area of the High Sierra, at 2.8 million acres, is the size of Connecticut. And, amazingly, urbanization affects less than 5% of the state's landscape; wild areas are more impacted by agriculture, logging, mining and other extractive activities. These two books will introduce you to the special places set aside as wilderness in our mountains and deserts. All the popular regions are included (John Muir, Ansel Adams, Joshua Tree, Death Valley, etc.) as well as lesser known places, many of which were created by the 1994 California Desert Protection Act.

Volume I is divided into regional 5 sections: Northeast; Northwest; Sierra Nevada; South Coast Ranges; Southern California. *Volume II* presents the Great Basin, Mojave and Colorado Desert regions. Within these sections each wilderness entry has a clear map, one or several excellent color photographs, basic statistics, access information and most entries have day hike descriptions. The larger areas (such as Death Valley) have history, geology and fauna and flora information as well.

Just browsing through these books will have you making camping plans. As the weather warms up this spring you could take a day trip to the Bighorn Mountains which are the eastern foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains. Or you could take several days to explore the wildflowers and petroglyphs of the Chuckwalla Mountains (one of my favorites) near Desert Center. Then in May or June you might travel north to the southern Santa Lucia Mountains along the coast where the Salmon Creek Trail leads into the Silver Peak Wilderness with open grasslands and redwood-lined creeks. By summer, the heights will be beckoning: a hike to the top of local Mt. Baden-Powell along the Sheep Mountain Wilderness or a wildflower-filled trip to Steelhead Lake in the Hoover Wilderness near Lee Vining. And vivid fall colors can be found in the Five Lakes Basin of Granite Chief Wilderness near Lake Tahoe or along Pine Creek in the South Warner Wilderness in the northeast corner of the state.

*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 Twelfth St., Suite 116, 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; Plant Lover - \$100; Patron - \$250.00; Life - \$1000.*

NATIVE. NET

Wayne's Word at
[daphne.palomar.edu/wayne/
wayne.htm](http://daphne.palomar.edu/wayne/wayne.htm)

Were the holidays stressful? Too much shopping, too many parties, too many relatives? It's time for a dose of hilarity mixed with reality at **Wayne's Word**, a most amusing yet educational plant-based web site. This quarterly journal dedicated to little-known facts and trivia about natural history subjects is the work of Wayne Armstrong who teaches at Palomar College (he comes off like a botanical version of Peter Schickele, a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach). Some topics include *Top 10 Spectacular Wildflowers of So. Cal*; *Gee-Whiz Trivia*; *Poison Oak! More than Just Scratching the Surface*; *Mind Altering Alkaloids! Plants that Make You Loco*; *Safe Sex in Plants*. This is a great site for teachers and docents—much silliness but a lot of good information too.

Your environment

Your community

Your choice

Protecting
our planet
for future generations.



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 the payroll deduction plan at your work-place, please let us know. We would like to change that!

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

PRESIDENT: Rick Fisher
359 N. Westridge, Glendora CA 91741, 626-335-9304
VICE-PRESIDENT: Kathy LaShure
718 W. Montecito Ave., Sierra Madre 91024, 626-355-7064
TREASURER: Virginia Iser
322 Garcelon, Monterey Park 91754, 626-573-0390
PROGRAMS:
NEWSLETTER: Kathy LaShure
718 W. Montecito Ave., Sierra Madre 91024, 626-355-7064
MEMBERSHIP: Sharon Green
1468 Casa Grande St., Pasadena 91104, 626-398-3860
CONSERVATION: Rick Fisher
359 N. Westridge, Glendora CA 91741, 626-335-9304
FIELD TRIPS:
RARE PLANTS: R.T. Hawke & Mickey Long
1750 N. Altadena Dr., Pasadena 91107, 626-398-5420
POSTER SALES: Harry Spilman
715 Prospect Ave #8, So. Pasadena 91030, 626-799-9486
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE: Gabi McLean, Eva Morgan



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.



**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT
SOCIETY**
San Gabriel Mountains Chapter
1750 North Altadena Drive

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 164
Pasadena, CA