



# THE PAINTBRUSH

JANUARY—FEBRUARY 2002 NEWSLETTER

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan. 13, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Harry Spilman
- Jan. 19, 9:00 am:** *Upper Newport Bay* field trip led by Harry Spilman
- Jan 24, 7:30 pm:** *Native Grasses of California* by J. Travis Columbus
- Sat. Feb. 2, 1:00 pm:** *Southern California Regional Meeting of CNPS* at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
- Feb. 10, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Steve Fischer
- Feb. 16, 9:00 am:** *Rubidoux Nature Center* field trip led by Harry Spilman
- Feb. 28, 7:30 pm:** *Theodore Payne (1872-1963): Native Plant Pioneer* by Elizabeth Schwartz
- Mar 9, 9:30 am:** *Behind the Shrubbery: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden with Bart O'Brien* joint field trip with Orange County CNPS Chapter

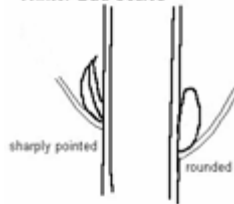
## WILLOWS IN WINTER

By Jane Strong

Without the pleasant distraction of wildflowers, winter is the perfect time to concentrate on those devilishly difficult identifications of oaks, manzanitas and willows. Fortunately, the *Jepson Manual* has a vegetative key for willows. Even better, only five species occur locally. A sixth, *Salix scouleriana*, is found in the High Country which is inaccessible at this season because of snow and ice.

The **winter bud scale** is one of the features that separates the genus *Salix*, willows, from the genus *Populus*, cottonwoods and aspens, in the *Salicaceae* or willow family. Willows have only one large scale covering the nascent bud, while cottonwoods and aspens have more than three. The winter bud scale is found at the node, the junction of the leaf and the stem.

Winter Bud Scales



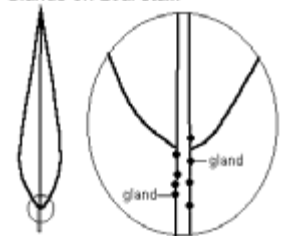
Winter bud scales are of two kinds. One has a very sharply pointed tip and overlaps itself so that it can be unrolled in one piece. The other is fused together in a cylinder and generally has a rounded tip. This one tears if you try to unroll it.

### What to look for

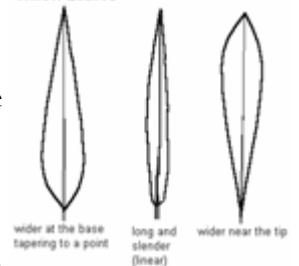
You need a twig with a winter bud scale and a leaf to identify the willows. Most of our willows are not totally deciduous. If you find one that is, look on the ground for a fallen leaf.

- First, look for the winter bud scale on the twig. Is it very sharply pointed or is it rounded?
- Next, look at the leaf. Is it white underneath or not?
- Now, feel for the glands where the leaf blade meets the leaf stalk (petiole). They feel like tiny bumps.
- Finally, look at the shape of the leaf. Is it linear, that is, very long and slender or, technically, is the length 10 - 23 times the width?

Glands on Leaf stalk



Willow Leaves



Continued on page 3

## SPECIAL EVENT

### Southern California Regional Meeting of Calif. Native Plant Society

Sat. Feb. 2, 1:00 pm

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden  
Claremont, Calif.

Come learn about the NEW CNPS! Hear what CNPS does and about the new Chapter Council. Learn the basics of running a chapter and share information between the most experienced and newest members. Learn about volunteer opportunities. Attend specific training workshops for chapter positions and activities. There will be afternoon meetings and workshops and an evening program.

The afternoon session will cover the programs of CNPS: conservation; vegetation; stewardship; legislation; education; horticulture/plant sales; school gardens; sales; education; programs/speakers; field trips; technology (treasurer, newsletters, communication, websites). There will be small group sessions dealing with the nuts and bolts of these programs.

The evening program will concern volunteer recruitment and development (how and where/outreach).

**This meeting is for ALL members of CNPS**, not just current Chapter Board members. We would like our organization to remain vital and strong, serving our members and reaching out effectively to the general public. Please consider attending to find out what you can do personally to make this goal a reality.

Contact Chapter President, Lyn McAfee (LynMcAfee@aol.com or 626-359-5278) to make a reservation.

## CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the fourth Thursday of the month. Informal plant identification and social time from 7:00 to 7:30 pm; programs start promptly at 7:30 pm.

## PROGRAMS

**Thurs., Jan 24, 7:30 pm:** *Native Grasses of California—An Overview* presented by J. Travis Columbus, PhD, Research Scientist at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and specialist in the systematics of grasses, especially *Bouteloua* and relatives. Do you think grass is just for mowing or maybe for cows. Dr. Columbus will share his knowledge of the fascinating world of California's native grasses, their taxonomy, distribution, and ecology.

**Thurs., Feb. 28, 7:30 pm:** *Theodore Payne (1872-1963): Native Plant Pioneer* presented by Elizabeth Schwartz, former executive director of the Theodore Payne Foundation. Over a century ago, Theodore Payne made it his mission to preserve our native flora—in the wild and for our gardens. During his 60 year career as a nurseryman, he introduced over 400 native species into horticultural use, initiated a wildflower trend and championed the “cause” in many ways. Join us for this slide presentation, where you will see and hear about his life's work.

**Thurs., Mar. 28, 7:30 pm:** *California Coastal Sage Scrub* presented by Professor Daren Sandquist and graduate student Karen Waldorf of CalPoly Pomona.

**Thurs., Apr. 25, 7:30 pm:** *Desert Conservation and Dunes* presented by Steve Hartman of the LA/Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter.

## OUTINGS

**Sun., Jan. 13, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Harry Spilman

**Sat. Jan. 19, 9:00 am:** *Upper Newport Bay* field trip with Harry Spilman. Here's a chance to see an ecosystem that doesn't occur locally: coastal wetland with saltmarsh vegetation and lots of birds. We might even see the rare clapper rail! Meet at intersection of San Joaquin Hills Rd & Backbay Dr. Take 73 Freeway to Jamboree Rd. Take Jamboree Rd. toward Pacific Coast Hwy. Turn left on San Joaquin Hill Rd. See Orange County Thomas Guide Page 889 D6.

**Sun., Feb. 10, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Steve Fischer

**Sat., Feb. 16, 9:00 am:** *Rubidoux Nature Center* field trip with Harry Spilman. We will be introduced to some of the 250 species that make up the Santa Ana River flora. Take 60 Fwy to Mission Bl. Go east on Mission Bl. to Riverview Dr. Turn left; go south to Louis Rubidoux Nature Center. Thomas Guide Riverside County pg. 685 A5.

**Sat., Mar 9, 9:30 am:** *Behind the Shrubbery: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden with Bart O'Brien*. A joint trip with the Orange County CNPS Chapter will feature RSA's lively & informative Director of Horticulture.

## Willows in Winter (cont.)

### Simple willow key following the *Jepson Manual*

Winter bud scale is very sharply pointed and overlapping

Leaf is **not** glaucous (white) underneath = *Salix gooddingii*, black willow

Leaf is glaucous (white) underneath = *Salix laevigata*, red willow

Winter bud scale is fused into a cylinder and blunt tipped

Petiole (leaf stalk) with glands at the base of the blade = *Salix lucida*  
*var. lasiandra*, shining willow

Petiole **without** glands

Leaf is linear, generally less than 1 cm wide = *Salix exigua*,  
narrowleaf willow

Leaf more than 1 cm wide = *Salix lasiolepis*, arroyo willow

Because of hybridization and a wide range of natural variation, some individual willows will not be easily identified.

### Best Places to Look for Willows Locally

The very best place to look at willows is along the stream north and south of the casting pond in Lower Arroyo Park in Pasadena. All five kinds are found here in abundance.

Most natural water courses have some willows. Hahamongna Watershed Park, Eaton Canyon south of the bridge, Whittier Narrows, and Chino Hills State Park are also very good.

For more details and lots of drawings, photographs, and weblinks see this website:

*Willow Primer for the San Gabriel Mountains*  
<http://tchester.org/sgm/plants/keys/willow.html>



*Salix lasiolepis*, Arroyo Willow  
with male & female parts  
from Philip A. Munz'  
*A Flora of Southern California*

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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.

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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; Plant Lover - \$100; Patron - \$250.00; Life - \$1000.

## UNDER THE OAKS Update

By Kathy LaShure

Our Chapter fund raiser, held on Oct. 27, was a great success! Customers



began arriving just before opening time and we were ready for them. Many purchased plants, seed packets, and information booklets. Rick Fisher and Elizabeth Schwartz were kept busy answering questions and giving planting advice. Native plant gardeners learned tips on plants and techniques from Steve Fischer and Jane Strong's presentations. Becky Rothenberg's friends and fans turned out to have their copies of *The Tumbleweed Murders* signed by Taffy Cannon. We were all pleased to greet Becky's sister and father, who had traveled to California for the event.

At the end of the day, there were not many plants left and the volunteer staff agreed that it had been lots of fun, as well as profitable, and that it was an event to repeat.

As Event Chair, I'd like to thank the volunteer crew: Rick, Elizabeth, Jane, Steve, Lyn, Cliff, Gabi and Rich. Thanks also go to Terry Fain for donating CDs of Becky's music and to Taffy Cannon & Book 'Em for their participation in the book signing. And thanks go to all who made purchases—happy growing!

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### WELCOME! New members

Susan Andres  
Jamie Bechtold  
John Dolan  
Janice Elliott  
Jan Horner  
W. Pickering  
Wendy Rader  
Victoria Raymond  
Jennifer Weiland

## MEMBER PROFILE: Lyn McAfee

Lyn McAfee, Chapter President, says she has been an outdoors-woman since she was six weeks old. That's when she went on her first camping trip into the wilds of Oregon where she was born.

From that time on Lyn's childhood was filled with excursions to the mountains, desert and shore. As a result of encounters with birds, chipmunks, trees, wildflowers, snakes, deer and other wildlife during that time, she learned to love the world of nature—and loved to learn about it.

When she got to college, Lyn majored in science and had a great time botanizing in Oregon forests and meadows. Later, after a four-year stint in Connecticut where she learned to appreciate deciduous forests, she landed in Miami, Florida. There she began to prepare for graduate work in ecology. Lyn says it was a fabulous experience running transects in the Everglades. She loved bringing Oregon relatives, who were used to snow-capped mountains, to a place in the Glades where there was a sign: "Pine Hill—Elevation 3 ft."

After learning a great deal about the ecology of the "River of Grass", circumstances called Lyn back to the West Coast and she found herself in LA County. Six months later there was a vacancy on the local board of education, and she got the job! For the next six years, Lyn concentrated on working to improve the education system at local, county and state levels.

Lyn then began to develop an expertise in managing non-profit

## A Memory of the Homeland: The Most Sacred of Plants, Wikwat *Artemesia tridentata*, Basin Sagebrush

By Mark F. Acuña, Gabrieleno-Tongva

While White Sage, *Salvia apiana*, is considered one of the most sacred plants, not only by the *Tongva*, but also by many other First Nation Peoples, there is one plant which is considered far and above, the most sacred of all plants. *Tongva* shamans would journey far into the Great Basin Desert or send traders to that beautiful but bleak interior that makes up most of Nevada. Passing through the great twisting canyon of "Cajon Pass" where the ancient village of *Amutskupiagna* stood, the shamanic traders made their way down into the dry world of *Mamaveata*, the Mojave Desert. North along the mountains they traveled, finally reaching the south western edges of what some call the Great Artemesian Desert, the world of Sagebrush and the land of *Artemesia tridentata*. *Artemesia* is not a sage but a member of the Asteraceae family, the sunflowers. And it has a double power for the *Tongva*: usage and memory.

According to some myths and legends, supported by much anthropological and archaeological data, the ancestors of the *Tongva* migrated south and west out of that great desert basin, starting around nine to seven thousand years BCE, reaching a climax of migrations around two thousand BCE. Some myths tell of Great Father *Weywot*, in the form of a great eagle, guiding the people out of the dry darkness on the other side of the mountains, through the passes and into the new world of *Tovangar*, now known as the Los Angeles/Orange counties basin. The *Tongva*, a people with a desert memory soon became the people of the oak trees and in time a great maritime culture with fleets of canoes reaching out to the four southern Channel Islands, the great *Wexay Momtes Ashungas Wow*, the Mountains That Go Down Into the Sea. But the shamans carried with them branches of their sacred plant, *Wikwat*. At first it was not found in their new world and so they would return on occasion to the homeland and bring back the sacred plant. Growing that plant today in our gardens, we celebrate the homeland and the ancient past of the *Tongva*.

But the sacred plant was more than ancestral memory. Large quantities of seeds were brought back (or traded) and ground into a fine mush. The fine three-toothed leaves were burned to fumigate homes, sweat lodges, sacred areas, and dance arenas. Branches of *Wikwat* were hung in sweathouses filling the interiors with a sweet smelling aroma. Branches were also burned to fumigate the homes of the ill and to purify childbirth implements.

The leaves were also made into medicinal teas for stomachache and to reduce fevers. An infusion of leaves was taken for bronchial problems and a decoction of leaves and stems was used as a wash for sores and as an antiseptic for cuts and wounds. Even a greenish dye was made for basketry work and also for tattoos.

Eventually *Wikwat* was also found in *Tovangar* growing in Sagebrush Scrub, Yellow Pine Forests, the Chaparral and in Pinyon-Juniper Woodlands, although it is still mainly found in the Great Basin Desert, the world of the ancestors. Blossoming from August to October, the scent recalls the ancient times, the journeys of the Old Ones, and the trade pilgrimages of the great shamans.



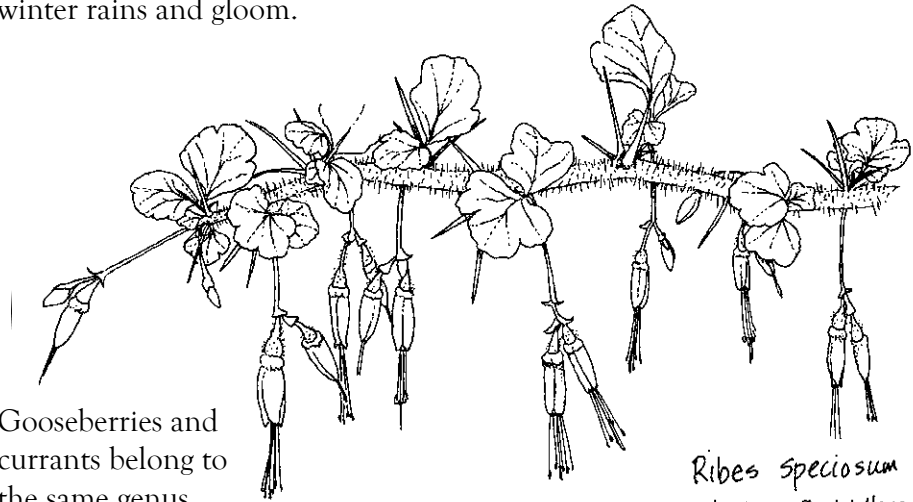
*Artemesia tridentata*  
from P. A. Munz'  
*A Flora of Southern  
California*

## PLANT PROFILE:

*Ribes speciosum*; Fuschia-flowered Gooseberry  
Grossulariaceae, Gooseberry Family

Text by Kathy LaShure, Illustration by Marianne Wallace

Who wouldn't be cheered by the sight of delightful crimson lanterns dangling from arching branches reaching out from shady canyon walls in earliest spring? Of course the branches are also wickedly spined. But no matter to Anna's hummingbirds. Or to the hiker venturing out after winter rains and gloom.



Gooseberries and currants belong to the same genus,

*Ribes*, but their spiny nature gives the gooseberries away. Their branches carry stout spines at the leaf nodes and can also have softer spines between the nodes. Gooseberries like the dappled shade and cooler temperatures found in canyon bottoms; sometimes they grow under oaks, sometimes under pines.

Fuschia-flowered gooseberry carries both types of spines (3 very sharp ones at the nodes) and has thick, dark green, 3-to-5-lobed leaves which are shiny above and paler beneath. Its numerous horizontal branches can reach 10 feet in length. From January to May the branches sport short lateral branches with bright crimson flowers that beckon to both hikers and hummers. The flowers are followed by bristly berries loved by other birds. This shrub occurs from Santa Clara County south to northern Baja California in coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities at elevations below 1500 feet.

Being so attractive to humans and birds, this is a plant to try in your garden, particularly if you have spot where its arching displays of flowers can be viewed from below. I've planted mine at the top of a 3-ft retaining wall. Although Fuschia-flowered Gooseberry is fairly drought tolerant, it likes some water during the dry season, but even then may lose its leaves. Remember this when the weather turns hot and you start removing natives that you think have bit the dust. If a bunch of spiny sticks looks unattractive to you, plant something short and evergreen in front of the gooseberry (maybe a *Monardella* species, Coyote Mint). And be patient. When the weather cools in the fall and the rains come again, the spiny branches will be sporting bright new leaves. And those cheery flowers will return in late winter when little else is blooming in your garden.

## MEMBER PROFILE

Continued from pg. 4

organizations. She worked as a journal editor, and did public relations, fundraising, event management, and business management for several scientific non-profits. Currently she is the executive director of the Nature Reserve of Orange County, where she coordinates monitoring and restoration activity for the 37,000 acres in the Reserve, and manages the business and finance operations.

In addition to her professional responsibilities and CNPS role, Lyn volunteers in several other organizations. She's on the board of the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy, Chairman of the Board of the Borchardt Fund at the California Community Foundation, and is working to establish a land trust in her hometown, Duarte.

For fun, Lyn works with a group of desert-loving individualists to restore an historic mining cabin on BLM land in the desert mountains for the Adopt-A-Cabin program. She also had a ball volunteering on an archeological dig to gather information about the historic mining town of Reilly. One interesting find on the dig was the only evidence of feminine habitation—a woman's garter!

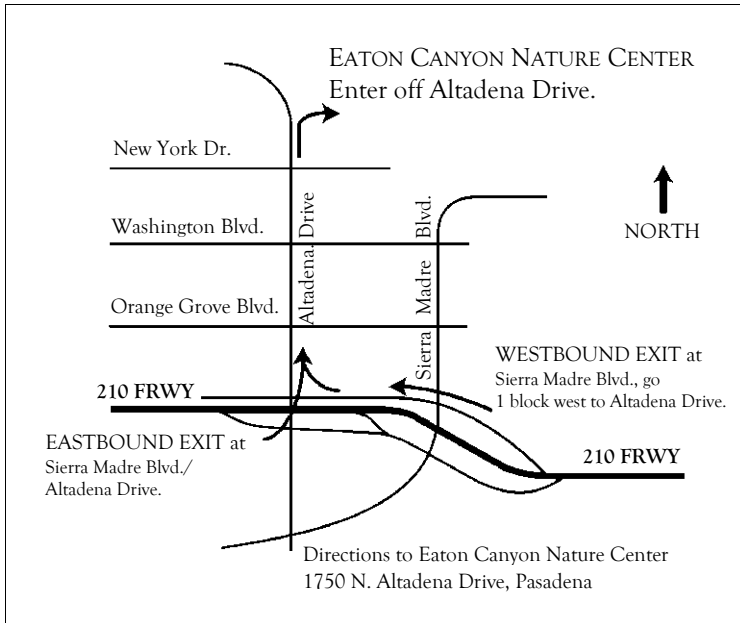
Lyn invites chapter members to contact her with ideas, suggestions or

### SEED NOTE

We still have packets of *San Gabriel Foothills Rainbow Wildflower Seeds* (11 species selected for our area, \$3/pkt) and it's not too late to plant them. Pick some up at the Jan. 23 meeting or contact Kathy at 562-693-5717 or encelia@gte.net.

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**Website:** <http://cnps-sgm.org>

**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 conserve them and their natural habitats, through education, science, horticulture & advocacy. 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**  
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