



Insignis

Newsletter of the Alta Peak Chapter
California Native Plant Society

One quarter of California's flora, which totals about 6300 species, is already either extinct, rare, endangered, or of limited distribution. Our CNPS mission is to conserve and protect native plants in their natural habitat. Volunteer members who work to achieve this mission are also of limited distribution. You can help by encouraging someone to actively join our chapter.

Calendar of Events

CNPS Board of Directors Meeting
Education and Conseration Conf
Sept. 10-11 (Sat-Sun) Carmel
Carpenter Hall, Sunset Center
Sat 9-12pm Board of Directors
1- 5p Education Conf.
Sun 8:30-11:30 Conservation Conf

Cal Exotic Pest Plant Symposium
Sept 30-Oct 1 Sacramento
Hyatt Regency Hotel

Chapter General Membership Meeting
October 15 (Sat) 7:30pm

Court Gallery, Hwy 198, Three Rivers
Lessons from Great Gardens: A
Comparison of English, California,
and California Native Plant Gardens"
Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture
for Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden,
Claremont
Meet for dinner with Bart at the
Noisy Water Restaurant at 6 pm.

Ecosystem Management-Designing
with Nature Oct 25-27 (Tues-Thurs)
Sacramento
UC Davis extension 1-800-752-0881

Chapter Board Meetings
All members welcome

Sept 15 Janet Fanning's home
Thurs, 7pm 561-3461

Oct 13 El Frieda Blond's home
Thurs, 7pm 561-3631

Nov 10 Catherine Cort's home
Thurs, 7pm 561-4671

CNPS Board of Directors Meeting
Dec. 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Berkeley
U.C. Berkeley Faculty Club

From the President

Questionaire

We are enclosing a questionnaire with this newsletter and would be greatly appreciative if everyone would read it, fill it out, and send it back to us immediately. We provided the stamp for you. Just fold it in thirds, staple or tape it, and drop it in the mail. This information is really important for our chapter and we need it before the October 15th meeting. Thank you for your support.

Nominations/Elections

At the beginning of the General Membership Meeting on October 15th, we will be taking nominations from the floor for officers, (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), for the fiscal year of 1994/1995. Voting will be by a show of hands.

Native Plant Garden and Trail-Three Rivers Memorial Building.

At the October 15th meeting we will have the map and plant lists available for you to see. We have plotted all the trees and shrubs and are ready to work on the garden design. This is our fall and spring project and we are looking for interested, experienced participants to help us this fall, if possible, so that we can have a preliminary plan to present to the Three Rivers Memorial District Board of Directors in March in order to obtain permission to do the second phase of this project. If you are interested, please call Janet Fanning, 561-3461 or see any Board Member at the October 15th meeting.

-Janet Fanning

Membership Meeting
"Lessons from Great Gardens: A Comparison of English, California, and California Native Plant Gardens"

Oct 15 (Sat) 7:30 pm
 Cort Gallery, Three Rivers

Bart O'Brien is the Director of Horticulture at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont and Chairman of the CNPS horticulture committee. He will speak to our chapter on "Lessons from Great Gardens: A Comparison of English, California, and California Native Plant Gardens". Bart will share information on how to garden English style, like using perennials with California natives. He will also answer any questions you have about native plant gardening. This is a wonderful opportunity to get ideas for your own garden and enjoy an informative slide show. A former manager of the Yerba Buena Nursery in San Mateo, Bart has been the Director of Horticulture at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden for the past four years. This garden is the oldest California native plant garden in the state. Bart holds an M.A. in landscape architecture, and is currently working on a comprehensive annotated bibliography of the cultivars of California native plants, which will track their origin and history. He is applying all this experience and expertise to spearhead the new CNPS horticulture committee.

Bart will visit our future native plant garden and trail at the Three Rivers Memorial Building during his visit to our area. We will discuss preliminary ideas for the design, revegetation, and use of existing native vegetation on the site. Prior to Sat. meeting, join us for dinner to meet Bart at the Noisy Water restaurant on Hwy 198 in Three Rivers at 6 pm sharp. We will adjourn to the Cort Gallery (three doors up the road) for a general meeting and elections from 7:30 to 8:00 pm followed by our program. For dinner reservations please call Janet Fanning, (209) 561-3461.

State CNPS Board of Directors Meeting

September 10-11 Carmel

Hosted by the Monterey Bay Chapter, this meeting will include an education and conservation conference. In keeping with the new objectives of CNPS's strategic plan, the education conference on Saturday afternoon will cover many topics including: outreach programs at 3 botanic gardens, school gardening programs, botanical education via color coping of herbarium specimens, and plant sales. Preliminary considerations will be discussed regarding the CNPS Landscaping Policy along with concerns about the Invasive Exotics Policy. There will also be talk about Chapter education concerns.

The Sunday AM conservation conference agenda will include clarification of plant protection under the California Endangered Species Act. A special presentation about environmental economics will be made by Dr. Jun Onaka and Michael Beck. Observers have traditionally labeled economics the "dismal science", and it would be fair to say the subject is generally misunderstood and avoided by environmentalists. In times of scarce public resources for natural areas, research and management, coupled with vociferous claims from commodity user groups and developers, this is working to the disadvantage of conservation. CNPS is fortunate to have Dr. Onaka and Michael Beck as presenters of this important subject. Dr Onaka is with Planning and Economics of Encinitas and Mr. Beck is a San Diego County Planning Commissioner and representative on the Endangered Habitats League. Both have been actively involved with the natural communities conservation planning effort and regional issues involving urban and natural resource planning.

Call Janet Fanning at 561-3461 for meal reservation and accommodation info, CNPS members are offering their homes as Monterey is booked solid.

Farewell Mike Neuman

The Alta Peak Chapter sadly and fondly says farewell to one of its founding members and Vice President, Mike Neuman. Mike has been a seasonal range conservationist for Sequoia National Park for the last five years, spending much of his summers in the high country monitoring meadows. He is moving to Oregon and will be putting the finishing touches on his master's thesis.

Mike has been on the Board of Directors since the Alta Peak Chapter was born in March of 1992. He gave the chapter its name and has co-edited Insignis, creating the professional format and design. His computer and botanical know-how will be greatly missed.

Mike expertly carried out the botanical documentation of our native plant garden site at the Three Rivers Memorial Building, teaching members how to key unknown species and plotting trees. Having Mike as a translator for the new Jepson Manual made it a fun treasure hunt, providing vital information for the planning of the trail and garden.

Mike shared his botanical expertise, leading several chapter field trips and teaching a workshop on plant identification and using plant keys.

He collaborated with the Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Kaweah to create a Cobble Knoll Trail brochure for plant identification which will be released soon.

We wish Mike good fortune, happy thesis writing (if it is possible) and always unknown plants to be discovered and keyed. Safe journey to Oregon, Mike. It has been a genuine pleasure working, editing this newsletter and arguing (no, I mean negotiating) with you. Do you have to get another fat book listing all the native plants in Oregon?

Editor Catherine Cort

Ecosystem Management— Designing with Nature

Oct 25-27 (Tues-Thurs) Sacramento
Hilton Hotel

This conference is offered in association with UC Davis extension and multi governmental agencies, as well as CNPS and The Nature Conservancy. Topics to be covered include perspectives of ecosystem management, social and political process in planning, the role of science in ecosystem management, designing with people and nature in mind, grass roots and community involvement, and many case studies of ecosystem management. Congressman George Miller from the Bay area will be speaker for the Wednesday night dinner; Rep. Miller has one of the best environmental voting records in Washington. Among the many speakers are Gary Synder, Kat Anderson, and Doug Wheeler who is Cal. Secretary of Resources. Registration fee is \$150 prior to October 7, \$170 after. Call 1-800-752-0881 to register by phone. The Hilton has special conf. rates, \$67 single, \$77 double, call 1-800-341-4321.

Autumnal Equinox Fundraiser for San Joaquin Valley Bioregion Task Force

Sept 24 (Sat) 3-7pm Pinehurst

This fundraiser is sponsored by the Institute for Ecological Health, the umbrella organization for the task force. The event will include a dinner (vegetarian available), live music, swimming, hiking, badminton, volleyball, \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. The proceeds will benefit the task force valley mapping project which needs a computer program to complete the comprehensive map. The map will be a planning tool for promoting preservation and ecological sustainable development. Pre-register by sending a check payable to Institute for Ecological Health to Adrienne McGraw, 1585 North Wishon, Fresno, CA 93728 209-486-6922 for directions.

Gardens for the 21st Century

by Janet Marinelli

(This article is reprinted from Nature Conservancy, May/June 1993.)

Used to be, gardeners bragged about their green thumbs. Today, brandishing mulching mowers and compost bins, we consider ourselves green to the core. But our gardens are ecological wastelands.

Across a continent of breathtaking biological diversity we have planted the same 20 to 30 plants from around the world: a golf-course-quality lawn, some meticulously clipped yews, a rhododendron or two, and a handful of specimen trees ringed by begonias and other annuals.

As wilderness shrinks and backyard acreage increases, the ecological impact of home gardeners grows ever greater. The U.S. Census Bureau calculates that the nation's inner suburbs have almost doubled in the past two decades and 400 square miles are added every year. It's no wonder that the Missouri-based Center for Plant Conservation is concerned about long-term survival of 4,279 of America's 23,000 native plant species--plants that are critical habitat for countless other creatures.

According to conventional gardening wisdom, importing plants from around the globe increases an area's biological diversity. Yet biodiversity isn't a simple matter of numbers of species. Free of the checks and balances that controlled their reproduction in their original lands, scores of introduced plants have jumped the garden gate and choked out indigenous vegetation. Conversely, pampered exotics fail to flourish beyond the backyard because they can't forge the kinds of ecological relationships that enable them to prosper and evolve in their native habitats.

Home gardens have a potential as ecological sanctuaries that is just beginning to be explored. In ever-increasing numbers, gardeners are

viewing their properties as potential habitats, not simply collections of pretty plants. They're restoring native plant communities, learning how to put back the pieces so that nature can heal itself and get on with evolution.

Northeast gardeners are re-creating the dense layers of North America's deciduous forest. Under towering canopy trees spared by the bulldozer, they're replacing lawn with understory species such as the flowering dogwood, with exquisite wild azaleas and other native shrubs, with woodland wildflowers and ferns. Gardeners in the Midwest are re-creating native prairie. Arizonians are designing their gardens with such distinctive Sonoran Desert natives as the giant saguaro, the multi-stemmed ocotillo, and the sculptural prickly pear.

Typically, these zones of natural landscapes are planted toward the edges of the property; natives and well-behaved exotics mingle in more traditional plantings in the immediate vicinity of the house. Without exception, as gardeners restore native plant communities, they discover to their delight that wildlife find their way back and make themselves at home.

Imagine the possibilities: a new suburban landscape in which natural gardens link up to provide living space for beleaguered wildlife, forming a network of corridors that crisscross the continent. Imagine a new definition of rare and unusual plants (the kinds sophisticated gardeners covet) based on native species that require human help to thrive or even survive. Virtually everywhere there are species that have lost so much ground that they can no longer repopulate former habitat. Planting them can be a gardener's great gift to the planet.

Gardens (Continued)

For millions of years, birds and bees have been agents of biodiversity scattering pollen and seed across the land. Now humans must play a similar role. Biologically, restored habitat is defective. But as ecologists struggle to heal the land, nature acquires, in author William Jordan's words, "an alternative mode of reproduction, one that is capable, if not of handling it to perfection, at least of making it compatible with the speeded-up pace of cultural evolution." He calls this a radical evolutionary metamorphosis.

Home gardeners are struggling to make this same evolutionary leap.

Some guidelines for planting native drought tolerant plants

Plant in existing soil. Do not add amendments. Do not fertilize. Place 3-4" of mulch (i.e. tree chippings) on the surface of the soil around the plant. Do not incorporate mulch into soil. Do not use walnut, eucalyptus, manure, nitrohumus, or sewage sludge. When you plant, water thoroughly. This may be one-half gallon in moist soil or 50 gal. in extremely dry soil. Each time you water, water at the drip line which is 4-6 inches away from the crown on small or young plants. Do not let the crown get wet. For the first year, check the soil under the mulch by digging down 1-2 inches every 1-2 weeks. If soil is moist, do not water. If soil is dry, water thoroughly with 4+ gallons of water. Some sites may not need more than the first watering. Second year and succeeding years may require extra water from November to March if the plant originated from an area of higher rainfall than your area. If the plant originated from a community that receives fog drip in the summer, you may also need to do some slight sprinkling during the summer. Other than that, discontinue watering. Keep the mulch at 3-4" deep.

(excerpted from the Las Pilitas manual of California native plants)

Native Plant Sales

Sept. 24 (Sat) Strybing Arboretum Society--San Francisco 10-1pm
Golden Gate Park Arboretum Entrance
9th Ave. & Lincoln Way
Margery Edgren, (415) 661-1316.

Sept. 25 (Sat) Santa Cruz Chapter--Aptos 12-2pm
Barn @ Deer Park Shopping Center,
Exit Hwy 1 @ Rio Del Mar, shopping
center is to the west, barn is on top
of hill. Tom Kelly, 408-425-2071.

October 1 (Sat) Sequoia Chapter CAL State Fresno
Corner of Barstow & Chestnut
trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals
suitable for the Central Valley and
the Sierras
Kelly Gallagher, (209) 268-5315.

October 1 & 2 (Sat & Sun) East Bay Chapter--Oakland 10-2pm
Merritt College Horticultural Area,
12500 Campus Drive. Plants, books,
posters, botanical art, seeds, and
bulbs. Bring boxes to carry plants.
Catalog: send check for \$2 after
Sept. 1 to CNPS, P.O. 5597, Elmwood
Station, Berkeley, CA 94705.
(510) 376-4095.

October 8 & 9 (Sat & Sun) AARC Modesto 10-3pm
Demeter Garden Center, 1612 Claus
Road, Wildflowers, perennials,
shrubs, and trees; experts to answer
questions.
Jo Ann Morgan, (209) 527-AARC.

October 16 (Sun) Monterey Bay Chapter Monterey Peninsula College 12-3pm
Fremont Street. Wide selection of
plants suitable for seaside to inland
areas, many hard-to-find local
species, displays, advice.
Naeda Robinson, (408) 625-1125.

October 22 (Sat) Sierra Foothills Chapter--Sonora 10-3pm
East Sonora El Capital National Bank
parking lot, 3303 Mono Way (Hwy 108),
Plants, books, t-shirts, posters,
seeds, and information.
Corinne Elwart, (209) 533-4866.

Conservation Report

We have been following several mining projects over the summer:

Clorrie Gill Mine--Yokohol Valley (PMR 92-004/PSR): The environmental document, a mitigated negative declaration (MND) has been prepared by Tulare County Planning Staff. It is apparently on the desk of Planning Director, George Finney, where it has been for several months, with no reasons given when we question the timing. It is supposed to have specific conditions for the mitigation of concerns brought up in public hearings that the applicant must agree to enact. When this agreement is reached between the applicant and the County, the MND draft will be circulated for public and agency review. This mine site is sensitive because of vernal pools, possible well contamination, some Native American/archeological considerations and aesthetic concerns. Alta Peak Chapter maintains that this is an inappropriate site for any kind of mining.

Artesia Ready Mix--Dry Creek Road (PMR 94-002/PSR): This mine has requested an amendment to expand the existing mine, active for three years. The amendment would increase the excavation from 10' to 90' deep, and allow in-stream mining within Dry Creek. Two new granite quarries would be established. According to the engineer's reclamation site plan map, the existing 33.5 acre mining site would increase to a total of 192 acres. Included in this expansion is the creation of a 71 acre lake. This site is ranked number four out of seventeen sycamore alluvial woodlands still found in the world. It is the second largest sycamore woodland in the entire Sierra Nevada eco-region. One third of this woodland found along Dry Creek has already been impacted by the existing mining practices; 144 sycamores and 27 valley oaks have been cut down.

Agency consensus is that an environmental impact report (EIR)

should be done for this alarming mine expansion. At present we are waiting for the official determination by the County Staff that an EIR will be prepared. Public comment will be solicited when the draft (EIR) is prepared. Public hearings will take place at the Planning Commission level.

Charlie Gill Mine--Frazier Valley Highway (PMR 91-003/PSR): This mine has had a negative declaration (ND) prepared as the environmental document. CNPS is concerned that a ND has been prepared for a site that has already been disturbed. This applicant has been mining on and off without a legal permit for the last four years or more. The applicant has been charged by the Tulare County DA's office for violation of zoning regulations. If this permit is approved, then it may give the message that future mining applicants can mine first and get a permit only if someone complains to the County. There may be several other mines in the county that are operating without permits. This mining permit will be heard by the Planning Commission on September 28, 1994, at 0945. CNPS members are encouraged to send comments regarding this mine to the Planning Commission at 2800 Burrel Ave., Visalia, 93291. Please try to attend the Planning Commission hearing if possible.

Legislative Mining Update
submitted by Kathryn Lodato, CNPS Legislative Advocate in Sacramento, July, 1994

SB 2041 and 2043 (Rogers) were bills to amend SMARA (The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act) put forth by the mining industry. SB 2041 would have created a "small-scale" mine category and exempted such mines from many existing regulations. SB 2043 would have established a procedure for local lead agencies, primarily counties, to become "accredited" and thus have even less state oversight of mines. These bills were

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Board of Directors - Alta Peak Chapter

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Native Plant Landscaping	John Moore	31393 Dahlem Drive, Exeter, CA 93221	(209) 592-9187

Membership Information

If you have received a complimentary copy of this newsletter and would like to join CNPS, dues are \$18 for student, retired, or limited income, \$25 individual, or \$35 for a family membership, paid to CNPS, 1722 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814. Be sure to indicate that you wish to be affiliated with the Alta Peak Chapter.

If you wish to receive this newsletter without joining CNPS, send \$5 for a two-year subscription to Alta Peak Chapter, CNPS, P.O. Box 245, Three Rivers, CA 93271.

Membership Update

Thanks to the following people for showing their support of the Alta Peak Chapter by joining, renewing their membership, or subscribing to **Insignis**.

New Members: Ellen & Tom Pittinger, Charles E. Stearns.

Renewals: Stanley Reichenberg, Deborah Resa, Elli Norris, Catherine Cort, Harold Wood, Dan & Colleen Veyna, Gloria E. Jeffs, Betty Bardeen, Jim Entz, Frank McMaster, Maya Ricci, and William Tweed.

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