



Insignis

Summer, 2005

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California Native Plant Society
Alta Peak Chapter Newsletter

Program: September 24, 7PM

"The Right Plant in the Right Place

-California Native Plants for Landscape Situations"

Speaker: Dan Songster

Many of our natives have wide landscape potential, others a more narrow application, and some can be used in unexpected ways! Some of the plants discussed will fit into one of the situations you have in your home garden, or you may see ways to use natives you have not considered before. For instance, do you have a slope that you wish covered in durable, drought tolerant plants? Is there a section of your yard that is always dry, and you really need a plant that can live with rainwater alone and still be gorgeous? Are you contemplating using a native tree and wonder if you have the room or the right situation? Need a hedge or a screen plant between you and your neighbor? Wish to know which natives will invite birds and butterflies into your yard? Simply looking for fragrance and color for use in a Mediterranean style bed? No problem! Many examples of our versatile natives will be touched on during Dan's slide presentation.

Dan Songster is Past President of the Orange County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Co-Director of the Golden West College Native Garden in Huntington Beach. He is active on the state level of CNPS, Past Chair of the Horticulture Committee, and currently serving on the CNPS Horticulture Committee. Dan has a degree in Ornamental Horticulture from Orange Coast College and has been employed in landscape design, installation, and maintenance for over 30 years with California native plants emphasized since 1978.

**Plant Sale, October 1, 9AM-1PM, Three Rivers Art Center,
41763 North Fork Drive, Three Rivers.**

Intermountain Nursery in Prather and California Native Nursery in Porterville will provide locally grown shrubs and trees, perennials, wild grasses, and bulbs for our plant sale. CNPS members will be available with suggestions about how and where to plant the plants, mulching, and answers to your special questions. Books and posters will be available for your purchase. Pre-orders, (enclosed form), must be received by Janet by September 24th. 561-3461.

WE NEED HELP - September 30 and October 1st -
VOLUNTEER!

Volunteers are very important both days of our plant sale. At 10AM on Friday we receive the plants and price them. We then pull all the preorders, after which the volunteers can purchase plants and take their orders home. The plants need to be watered and the orders rechecked. On Saturday, the books and posters arrive and at 9AM the doors are opened. At this point we need volunteers to help customers take their plants to their vehicles. We always need knowledgeable people there to answer questions about native plants and how and when to plant and how to maintain their plants. After the sale any unsold plants are picked up and are returned to the sellers on Sunday. We greatly appreciate your help and look forward to seeing you at this event.

President's Message

Here it is, early August, and hot. Our field trips have gone smoothly, with glorious flowers everywhere we went. Now, after the meadow walk coming up this Saturday, we can look forward to the end of summer and fall events. If anyone is interested in hiking the higher country in the next several weeks, call me. I don't plan on choosing any particular site or date for a CNPS explore, but will be wandering over trails and up peaks as often as I can get away in these coming days, so call if you want to join me.

The more important "news" concerns the September program, and then the Annual Plant Sale in Three Rivers. Janet describes these two activities in the previous sections, so I will simply say how much I am looking forward to both. Dan Songster, from Golden West College in Orange County, is a long-time friend and fellow native-plant-gardener, and I, we, are very grateful to him for making room in his schedule for a visit to Three Rivers for the 24 September evening program. The next weekend our Plant Sale will bring out members and friends who are interested in growing native plants around homes or other landscaping sites.

President's Message Continued

After many years of trial and error gardening, my best advice is just to "Try". Consider each planting an experiment, and if it works, add more of the same. Although the plants we offer all share the features of being basically adapted to Tulare County weather conditions and lack of summer rain, each has rather special needs for soil and sun/shade. There will be plenty of advice available on Plant Sale Day (1 October), so come up and let experts help you design and choose for your own needs.

On the topic of "Conservation", although the Tulare County CNPS Chapter has not faced the deluge of projects that call for our comment. (whether to support or suggest alternatives), in the past we have taken positions on riparian encroachment, sand/gravel 'mining' in sycamore woodlands, and management issues on public lands. Because so much of the newly proposed "development" in the lower elevations is on land no-longer-natural, we are spared some of the controversy that faces CNPS in other parts of California. Recently we have, however, prepared written responses to notices about projects under consideration by Sequoia National Forest. If any of our members would like to be involved in reading or discussing these documents, please call me.

And back to our Fall gardening-with-local-native-plants program and plant sale schedule, a reminder that after the long hot summer we have experienced, (and don't forget the lovely spring that went before!), the coming of October means the approach of our winter cool, rainy season, just right for planting. (But does anyone have a trick for managing gophers???) Let Janet or me know of any special needs or requests you have for the coming year's CNPS activities. We will be working on the February program, field trips, and whatever other gatherings you may suggest or ask for.

California Native Plant Society

Dedicated to the Preservation of the Native Flora

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society, working through its local chapters, seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve this rich resource for future generations. Membership is open to all, and includes informative publications, free field trips, programs, and discounts on books and posters. Also included are the *Bulletin*, a quarterly statewide report of activities and schedules, and this chapter newsletter. Please call the membership chairperson for more information.

New Membership Application

Name _____ Membership Category _____
Address _____ Student, Retired, Limited income - \$20
City _____ Individual, Library - \$35
State _____ Zip _____ Household, Family, Group - \$45
Tele. _____ Supporting - \$75
I wish to affiliate with: _____ Plant Lover - \$100
_____ Alta Peak Chapter (Tulare County) _____ Patron - \$250
_____ Other _____ Benefactor - \$500
_____ Other - \$1000, \$2500, \$5000, \$10,000

Mail application and check to:

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816

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