

California Native Plant Society
South Coast Chapter



NEWSLETTER
September - November 2010

Bart O'Brien
California Native Plants: Gardening with the Senses
Co-sponsored with the Friends of the Torrance Library

Wednesday, September 8, 2010 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

California Native Plants: Gardening with the Senses

Speaker: **Bart O'Brien** Director of Special Projects Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont

We are very lucky to co-sponsor with the Friends of the Torrance Library this special talk by Bart O'Brien. Bart is co-author of California Native Plants for the Garden and Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens.

California native plants are ideally suited to bringing all five senses – touch, smell, taste, hearing and sight – to home gardens. This program offers Bart's favorite species and cultivars for local landscapes. Regardless of where you live or your level of horticultural expertise, Bart will help you discover the joys of growing California's remarkable plants. Invite your friends.

Please note: this **Wednesday** night meeting at the **Torrance Library** is in addition to our regular September monthly Monday meeting. See details on next page for our regular meetings.

Location: Katy Geissert Civic Center Library - Community Room
3301 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, (310) 618-5959 www.Library.TorranceCA.Gov

Upcoming Monthly Programs

Monday, September 13, 2010 Doors open 7:15, Program starts at 7:30 PM

California Native Plants That Grow Well in Our Area

Speakers: **Tony Baker** and **Ric Dykzeul** Assistant Horticulture Co-Chairs, South Coast Chapter CNPS

One of our popular traditions is having native plant gurus Tony and Ric as our featured speakers just before our annual plant sale. Their discussion will include some of the plants that we will be selling on Friday, October 1 (members only) and Saturday, October 2. You can expect to see many samples of foliage and ask as many questions as you want! Get out your pencils and start marking your shopping lists. We will have a list of plants that will be available at the plant sale. This list will also be posted on our web site. (Plants are subject to availability.)

Remember fall is the best time to plant California Natives.

Monday, October 4, 2010 Doors open 7:15, Program starts at 7:30 PM

Grass, Not Lawn: California Native Grasses in the Garden

Speaker: **Barbara Eisenstein** Research Associate, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Horticulture Chair, CNPS – San Gabriel Mountains Chapter

Since developing and running the garden hotline at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Barbara Eisenstein has continued offering advice and encouragement to those interested in sustainable gardening with California native plants. She shares information through articles, a website www.weedingwildsuburbia.com, lectures and workshops.

Did you know that some native grasses can live to be hundreds of years old? They are important for erosion control and provide critical habitat for birds and other animals, yet they are found in some of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. This presentation will focus on the garden use of this fascinating but under-utilized group of plants. A slideshow will provide information on specific grasses and their garden needs. Pictures of lovely, grassy gardens will give you ideas on how to incorporate them in your own garden.

Monday, November 1, 2010 Doors open 7:15, Program starts at 7:30 PM

Hope for Southern California Streams

Speaker: **Jessica Hall** Senior Associate, Restoration Design Group

Riparian and wetland habitats once played a significant role in the Los Angeles - and South Bay - landscape. Landscape designer and planner Jessica Hall will discuss issues and opportunities for restoring urban streams today, with examples of local design concepts and examples of successful restorations in the region and beyond.

Jessica Hall is a senior associate at Restoration Design Group, a landscape architecture firm specializing in environmental design and restoration, and is also co-editor of the *L.A. Creek Freak* blog, which reports our progress towards healthy Southern California streams, creeks, rivers and neighborhoods.

Location for Monday Monthly Programs: South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula, classroom closest to the garden entrance

Special Offers for the California Native Plant Sale

Special Preview Night for Members Only

Friday October 1, 2010 5 PM – 7 PM
South Coast Botanic Garden
Admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door
RSVP by September 24 - Purchase tickets at South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.

Avoid the rush and get first pick of sale plants. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres and a glass of wine while visiting with your fellow garden enthusiasts. Preview Night is only open to SCBSF and CNPS members.

Preorder Native Plants

Do you need a lot of natives? Are you worried we might run out? We are pleased to announce that you will be able to place special orders of selected California Native Plants that can be picked up at our Annual Plant Sale. If you need a large quantity of plants this is perfect for you. By placing your order ahead of time, we can make sure we have it in stock for you. Now's your chance to order a truck load!

Get your orders to Ric Dykzeul by email to rddesign@socal.rr.com or leave a voice message on his phone at (310) 530-9102. **Orders must be placed by Saturday September 18.**

Plants orders are subject to their availability for the sale.

By mid September we will have a list of plants available at the sale on our web site <http://www.sccnps.org> and at our Monday Program Meeting, September 13.

Point Vicente Native Plant Garden

Scenic Gardening Days

Saturday, September 18, Wednesday, October 20 – 9:30 am - noon
Point Vicente Interpretive Center - 31501 Palos Verdes Dr. W., Rancho Palos Verdes

Our native plant garden at the Point Vicente Native Plant Garden in Rancho Palos Verdes is maintained by volunteers. Join us in sprucing up this lovely garden overlooking the ocean with other members of our chapter. Bring your gloves, sunhat, and small tools (e.g. clippers and weeders) and perhaps a bucket or bag to hold weeds and trimmings for greenwaste.

If you are interested in volunteering at this garden overlooking the ocean and would like to be on our email distribution list, please send email to Barbara Sattler via our website: [.http://www.sccnps.org](http://www.sccnps.org)

Orcutt's Yellow Pincushion
Rare Dune Wildflower of the South Bay
by Ivan Snyder

In June of 2010 I was contacted by Mark Shoemaker about his finding of a rare dune wildflower Orcutt's Pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *orcuttiana*). Previously, Mark had read in local newspapers about discovery of the plant at Manhattan Beach's Sand Dune Park which has become quite a controversy. The story piqued Mark's interest and he embarked on a pleasurable pastime searching for the plant along the remnant dunes in a neighboring city where he often walks his dog Lulu. I will keep the location secret. Mark found a single plant he thought might be it and contacted naturalists of the Ballona Institute to have a look. Mark and Lulu later led me to the plant. I expected it would be a commoner something else. To my surprise it turned out to be one lone pincushion in all this vast acreage of weeds. Maybe the last one?

I had not previously visited the dunes where Mark led me. It was like a time travel adventure for me. My family came to inhabit the dunes of what is now Manhattan and Hermosa Beach in the early 1900s. I was told stories about the dunes and wildflowers of the past. My mother's family, living on the more paved over dunes in Manhattan Beach's early Tree Section, called the people living on the sparsely settled sand closer to the beach the Sand People. I am fourth generation of Sand People, making dune flora special to me. Virtually all the open sand area here now is found only on the beach. Walking with Mark I was transported back to the aboriginal dreamtime dunes of legend. Stories of lupines common on the dunes especially captured my imagination. Here was the Dune Lupine (*Lupinus chamissonis*) of my dreams. All but one tiny natural stand of Dune Lupine in the city of Manhattan Beach has vanished. There on an ancient back dune at Sand Dune Park you can see the rare dune wildflower Orcutt's Yellow Pincushion. A few remaining relics in a mere sandbox sanctuary.



Local Sites and Activities

George F Canyon

<http://www.pvplc.org/land/georgefcanyon>

- September 4, October 2, November 6 - Saturday Morning Bird Walk – 9 am. Open to all levels of birders. Meet naturalist (and SCCNPS board member) Loretta Rose at the Nature Center. Binoculars provided. Free.
- September 24, October 23, November 20 – Canyon Night Hike: Held on or near a full moon evening, this walk will bring you to the top of the canyon for a fantastic view of city lights below. The two-mile round trip hike will experience nocturnal delights as well as a 300 ft. rise in elevation. Lots of fun!! Bring a flashlight. \$10 per person. Children must be at least 8 years old. Let the guide take you on a gentle walk and introduce you to the natural history of one of the Peninsula's most beautiful canyons at night. Allow 2 hours for the hike. Start times vary with sunset. Reservations are required.
- September 4, October 2, November 6– Saturday Hikes - 1 pm. Allow 2 hours for this walk. \$3 per person. Join a guide into this delightful canyon. The guide will answer questions on habitat, geology, drainage, wildlife, folklore and more.

Located at the corner of PV Drive North and PV Drive East in the city of Rolling Hills Estates.

Madrona Marsh

<http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com/naturecenter.htm>

October 23 Moonlight Magic 6:00-10:00. A celebration on Madrona Marsh Preserve under the full moon. Music, supper, gift baskets and auction items. An event to help sustain and protect the programs of the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center. Tickets \$50.00 per person. Tickets will be available September 1, 2010 at

- Madrona Marsh Nature Center, cash and checks only
- Wild Birds Unlimited, in Rolling Hills Plaza, Cash, checks and credit card
- Madrona Marsh Web Site, pay pal

Madrona Marsh is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance

Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve

<http://gardenawillows.org/>

- Tours on the 2nd Sunday of every month, 1-4 pm
- Volunteer workdays 3rd Saturday of each month, September 18, October 16, November 20, 8-11 am
- Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden -- Gardening with South Bay Native Plants
Free Classes Presented by Dr. Connie Vadheim
Arthur Johnson Memorial Park - Community Room 6:00-7:30 p.m.
 - September, October – No Class
 - November 11 – Prudent Pruning - Focus on Pruning Plants from the Chaparral

Located at 1200 W. 170th Street, Gardena, CA. Between Normandie & Vermont- One block north of Artesia (310) 217-0681.

Bixby Marshland

http://www.lacsd.org/about/wastewater_facilities/jwpcp/bixbymarshland.asp

- Tours on the 1st Saturday of each month, 8 am to noon.

Located northwest of the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) near the intersection of Figueroa Street and Sepulveda Boulevard in the City of Carson.

Remembering SCCNPS Member Ann Mitchell

Ann Mitchell, 92, a long time member of the California Native Plant Society, died June 13, at her home in Rolling Hills Estates. Ann became interested in native plants in the 1960s from reading Sunset magazine and visiting the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. An avid gardener, she planted many natives around her hillside home and often could be found working in her garden until dark. She traveled widely and enjoyed visiting parks and gardens on her trips.

Ann worked as a librarian at UCLA for 18 years. She supported many social and environmental causes, and belonged to the Theodore Payne Foundation, The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, and the Sierra Club. Ann is survived by two sons and two grandchildren. A remembrance will be held Oct. 3. For information call 760-598-0951.



Help Us Name our Newsletter

We would like to name our newsletter and we need your help. Please send suggestions to the editor Chris Martin at ChrisMM@Socal.rr.com. Suggestions will be submitted to our board and the winner will be announced at a future chapter meeting.

South Coast Chapter Website

<http://www.sccnps.org/>

Visit our website to see all the updates which provide more information and make the website even easier to use. Special thanks to our webmaster David Sundstrom.

Each species on our Plant List is now hyperlinked to the Calflora reference site. One mouse click displays the plant profile, and second mouse click displays the CalPhotos image portfolio for the plant. Please give it a try at <http://www.sccnps.org/local-plants-suitable-for-gardening>

Renew Online

Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to **renew automatically** year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs. <http://www.cnps.org>. Click on the JOIN button

South Coast CNPS Chapter Officers

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