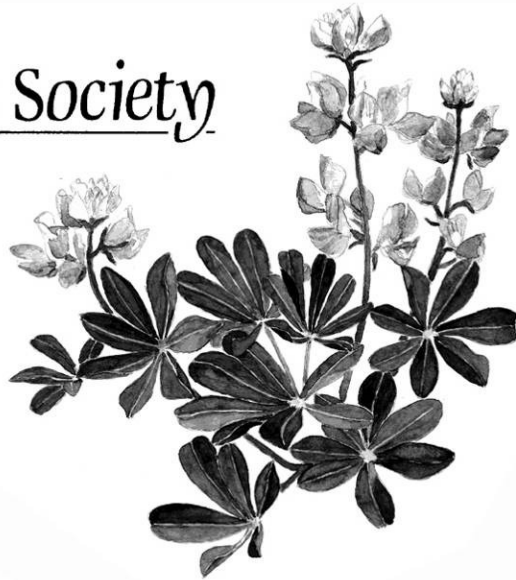


California Native Plant Society

South Coast Chapter



NEWSLETTER

December 2010 - February 2011

Upcoming Monthly Programs

Monday, December 6, 2010 7:30 - 8:30 PM

Holiday Dessert Pot Luck

Join us for our annual gathering to share our love of native plants while enjoying delicious desserts. Bring your favorite dessert and pictures, slides or digital images to share.

Monday, January 3, 2011 Doors open 7:15, Program starts at 7:30 PM

How Your Backyard Fits Into the Environmental Big Picture

Speaker: **Troy Jonas**, Soil Conservation Technician

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The **Natural Resources Conservation Service** is the Federal agency that works in partnership with the American people to conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

NRCS offers free conservation planning assistance to help with backyard gardening to provide better habitat and enjoyment in backyards. Troy's presentation will provide a wide array of Backyard Conservation ideas, including use of native plants to save water, provide beneficial habitat, and connect your own backyard to the greater environment.

Troy will also provide an overview and history of this agency, including the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the federal government's largest wetlands restoration program, which provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners and Indian Tribes to restore, protect and enhance wetlands that have been degraded or converted for agricultural uses.

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

Monday, February 7, 2011 Doors open 7:15, Program starts at 7:30 PM
Restoration of Theodore Payne Native Flora Area of Valley Park in Hermosa Beach
Speaker: **Lili Singer**, Special Projects Coordinator,
Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants, Inc.

Lili will provide history about the remarkable Theodore Payne, and the restoration of the historic Theodore Payne Native Flora Area of Valley Park in Hermosa Beach. (Our chapter recently made a donation to this project.) Lili will also provide updates on other current events and emerging science that will appeal to native plant enthusiasts. Please join us for this interesting presentation.

Location: **South Coast Botanic Garden**, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula, classroom closest to the garden entrance

Local Sites and Activities

George F Canyon

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

- Saturday Morning Bird Walk – First Saturday of the month 9 AM. Open to all levels of birders. Meet naturalist (and SCCNPS board member) Loretta Rose at the Nature Center. Binoculars provided. Free.
- 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, with a 300 ft. rise in elevation will reveal nocturnal delights. 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.
- Saturday Hikes - First Saturday of the month 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. Please call 310-547-0862 for exact dates and times.

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.

Madrona Marsh

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

- Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden - Elegant Espaliers. Saturday, December 4 - 10:00 AM-noon. Repeats Tuesday, December 7 – 6:30-8:00 PM. Presented by Dr. Connie Vadheim. California Native Plants for a Craftsman Style Garden with an Emphasis on Shrubs for Narrow Places. The December class wraps up the series on historic gardens of the late 1800's and early 1900's. Learn about the Arts & Crafts/Craftsman Movement and its impact on garden styles.
- Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden Series – Lawns Gone Wild: Local Native Alternatives to the Sod Lawn. Saturday January 8 - 10:00 AM to noon. Presented by Dr. Connie Vadheim. Repeats Tuesday January 4 - 6:30-8:00 PM.
- Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden Series – Fabulous Ferns: Native Ferns for a Range of Garden Conditions. Saturday February 5 10:00 AM to noon. Presented by Dr. Connie Vadheim. Repeats Tuesday February 8 - 6:30 – 8:00 PM.

Located at 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance.

Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve

<http://gardenawillows.org/>

- Stroll the Preserve 2nd Sunday of every month, 1:00-4:00 PM
- Volunteer workdays 3rd Saturday of each month 8:00 -11:00 AM
- Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden -- Gardening with South Bay Native Plants December 9 6:00-7:30 PM - [Elegant Espaliers Class](#) - The December class wraps up the series on historic gardens of the late 1800's and early 1900's. Learn about the Arts & Crafts/Craftsman Movement and its impact on garden styles. If you live in a Craftsman/bungalow home this class will be especially useful. Class will focus on plants that can be used in narrow places - either as narrow screens or espaliered along a wall. How to train and prune plants to achieve the desired effect. Free Classes Presented by Dr. Connie Vadheim. Arthur Johnson Memorial Park - Community Room

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

Heritage Creek Preserve on the CSU Dominguez Hills

Restoration Sessions for December: Fridays December 3, 10, 17 from 2:00-5:00 PM. Saturdays December 11, 18 from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Located at CSU Dominguez Hills , 1000 E. Victoria Street, Carson

Chapter Election this month. Please Vote.

Elections for our South Coast Chapter Board will be held this year in December. The ballot is included in this newsletter. Please complete the ballot and bring it to the Chapter Meeting December 6 or mail it to CNPS c/o Carol Roelen, 24211 Adolph Ave, Torrance, CA 90505 by December 15.

California Fan Palm

By Ivan Snyder

I went for a trip out to the Palm Springs area recently. Palm Springs gets its name from the California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) native to the desert oases known altogether as the Indian Canyons. I was keen to see and learn more about the area and to reminisce about experiences of my childhood. It had been many years. My great grandparents had a ranch, the DeVore Ranch as we called it, in Indio. My great aunt and uncle took over the ranch and started the Millard Wright Company, a producer of palms for landscaping. My uncle lined the streets of Palm Springs with the great multitude of palms that can be seen today.

Indio means Indian in Spanish. Cahuilla is the local Indian tribe. The Fan Palm is practically the Tree of Life to the Cahuilla. The Fan Palm provided much of the essential materials for life and was featured in Cahuilla creation mythology. The Cahuilla bible of ethnobotany is *Temalpakh*, Cahuilla Indian knowledge and usage of plants. Every ancient people had a genesis story and also an origin of fire story. The Fan Palm gave the Cahuilla food, house construction materials, and materials for all sorts of crafts. One most important craft is firecraft. The Cahuilla started fire by rubbing two sticks from the fruit stalk. I did it. I'm proud to say my very first friction fire was while using sticks from the Fan Palm. Works well, but makes foul smoke.

Today the California Fan Palm is common to landscaping. Very similar is the Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*). The two species hybridize causing more identification confusion. While in Palm Canyon, I felt some of the trees appeared to actually be the Mexican type. But I suppose it is only the natural variation I witnessed. The Californian species is more cold tolerant, so it is more preferred for cultivation.

I must return again soon to explore more of the Indian Canyons. Palm Canyon is a fantastic and beautiful place with its majestic palms. It is fitting to call it the Cahuilla Eden.



CNPS South Coast Chapter Election Vote for our Board Members for 2011

Ballot

Please vote on all nominees.

Nominee	For	Against	Abstain
Tony Baker			
David Berman			
Ric Dykzeul			
Anne Eli Kershner			
Cindy Kondon			
Lynn Mcleod			
Yas Osako			
Rosalie Preston			
David Sundstrom			
Karen Thordarson			

Ballots may be returned to the December 6, 2010 meeting or mailed by December 15, 2010 to CNPS c/o Carol Roelen, 24211 Adolph Ave, Torrance, CA 90505.

Do we have your current email address?

Save the chapter postage costs and reduce paper waste. To receive your quarterly CNPS South Coast Chapter Newsletter via email only, please send your email address to Membership Chair Cindy Kondon at C.JJKondon.earthlink.net. Let her know you want to do your part to 'Go Green'.

Please send any announcement requests, any other articles of interest, comments and suggestions to the newsletter editor: Christine Martin: ChrisMM@socal.rr.com.

Lomita Waterwise Garden Award to Local Chapter Members Rob Friedrich and Sharon Houston

By Rob Friedrich

Twenty years ago when Rob and Sharon moved to Lomita their front yard was a concrete slab and the backyard was waist high weeds. Their pot bellied pig, Arnold, made short work of the backyard weeds along with anything else that was growing. Pigs are, well, pigs! They love to eat and root. This story is not about Arnold though, nor the back yard. It is about the front yard.

Solid concrete is conducive to storing things. The front yard was perfect: twenty-five feet by forty feet of nice flat storage. Unfortunately the City of Lomita has restrictions on what you can “park/store” in your front yard. Ever try to “change City Hall”? After the visit from Code Enforcement everything was moved and the concrete was broken up and stacked for future use.

Nice dirt. Nice big patch of bare dirt sprouting weeds. Well there was the HUGE bougainvillea and a nice size Magnolia tree shading the house. How about an English Cottage Garden? Kind of an unplanned-planned planting scheme. Trips to the garden center picking out colorful plants, placing them ever so strategically so they did not look “planned”. Water everything, rake, water, maintain, water, fertilize, water, replant, water, weed; what a lot of work for something that was supposed to “take care of itself”. That lasted a year or two and as the plants died from neglect or lack of water the thought process on the front yard started to change. NEVER was there to be grass. Who in their right mind would want to maintain a yard of stuff that had to be watered regularly, fertilized and maintained?

“Hey, there is a talk at the Botanic Gardens on California Native Plants tomorrow night. I am off work. We should go.” Sharon said. Rob agreed. That was the start of their relationship with SCCNPS: lectures, plant sales, more lectures, and California native plant garden tours.

Plan, plan, plan. Look at the specimens at the plant sales... Will that small plant really get “that big”? It is so cute now! Color, fragrance, size, texture, habitat, food (insect, animal and human). What a lot to digest and learn! Thankfully the CNPS members were friendly and helpful, making the decision to plant a California native garden even easier. Rob and Sharon purchased plants at the local CNPS sales, made a trip or two to the Theodore Payne Foundation, and attended lectures at the Marsh and the Willows by Connie Vadheim. After a couple of years of waiting—Let the planting begin!

“Oops, that plant was for the rental house”, Sharon said. “Do you think it will transplant well?” “I don’t have the faintest idea, let’s ask Tony Baker next meeting”, Rob responded. So it went. Plant, nurture, move, replant, and sow seeds. Good thing they had a “plan” in their heads. Last fall many of the plants went in just prior to the rains... We did have rain last year, right? Spring brought some growth, flowers, insects and joy! They proudly told their neighbors that the front yard was a California Native Plant garden. Some neighbors looked and smiled, others walked quickly away. How could a few small plants and LOTS of mulch really be a garden?

Drought, low rain amount the past years depleted the water supply. California was in crisis. Cities enacted water restrictions. Lawns died. Plants withered, but their front yard in Lomita rolled with the punches. It did not “fill in all the corners” with giant Mule Fat bushes and one of the three California Fuchsias did not make it. The seeds from the “One Plot at a Time” did not sprout. (Maybe next year?) Ultimately several plants did bloom. Woolly Blue Curl, Fremontia and buckwheat, to name a few, showed some color and the poppies were prolific.

Recently the City of Lomita started a program to recognize water wise gardens. The submission process was simple: provide the square footage of the garden, list the plants (five of which must be from the City’s specified list), verify the use of a “smart irrigation controller” (Sharon hand waters when necessary. Can’t get any smarter than that!) and as a resident you can proudly display the recognition plaque provided by the city. Rob and Sharon “jumped” at the opportunity to participate. Their garden was the first to qualify and display the WATERWISE GARDEN recognition plaque. All that “hard work” paid off!

For more information on the WATERWISE GARDEN PROGRAM in Lomita visit
GOGREENLOMITA.COM

Point Vicente Native Plant Garden

Scenic Gardening Days

Dates to be determined – 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. If you are interested in volunteering and would like to be on our email distribution list, please send email via our website: <http://www.sccnps.org>

South Coast Chapter Website

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

Visit our website to see all the updates and events. Special thanks to our webmaster: David Sundstrom.

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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Vice President / Webmaster	David Sundstrom
Secretary / Treasurer	Lynn McLeod
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Gardena Willows Liaison	Rosalie Preston
Horticulture Co-Chair / Plant Sale Coordinator	Ric Dykzeul
Horticulture Co-Chair / Point Vicente Garden	Tony Baker
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