



Mimulus Memo

California Native Plant Society — Kern County Chapter
September 2011

Raising and Caring for California Native Plants

October 29, 2011
Please save the Date!
Our Annual California Native Plant Sale at CSUB.

We have been able to schedule our next two speakers for the upcoming Fall season. Both speakers have agreed to topics related to horticulture and growing plants in Kern County (see more details on page 4). This focus should help us be ready and eager for the up-coming **Plant Sale at Cal State Bakersfield campus, on Sat., October 29th.**

More information will be published on the Chapter website, if it doesn't make it into the newsletter on time, so please check there.

It should also be noted that late announcements of meeting times is not entirely due to the lax practices of this chapter's president. We are permitted to reserve our meeting rooms from the Superintendent of Schools each month, but we can not use the facility if there is a School District need for the room. It makes sense for them to have a priority. This frees up the rooms if they are needed for some educational we will have our September 20th meeting to learn about growing different California Natives here in Kern County.

Dorie G.

Please save the date. We will also be doing "pre-sale orders" of plants this year. Be sure to check early and often to get hard to find favorites.

Members who are living, or gardening, at higher elevations may check the www.intermountainnursery.com website to see what is on the *Availability List* that works for your altitude. When you have made your choices, call me, Dorie, and let me know how soon you need them, what sizes, quantities, Latin name of plants, etc. I will call to order them for the chapter, and we will pick them up and arrange for dispersal, before the General Plant Sale, so you can get them into the ground earlier.

Members living lower elevations, may still look at the Intermountain Availability List, give me the info, and they will deliver all our plants the day before the Plant Sale. That means that they will now hold plants for us. Previously, we had to wait to see what was available at that time we wanted delivery. Often, other organizations had picked-over the plants for their earlier sales, and we weren't able to get very many "pretty" plants.

Dorie G.

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CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Big Vote on California's Drinking Water

Oil and gas companies have started using a dangerous drilling method in California called "fracking." Fracking has created major environmental problems in other states and has hardly any oversight in California, putting our groundwater at risk for potential contamination.

Assembly member Bob Wieckowski has filed a common-sense bill (AB 591) that would ensure that California's citizens have access to information about fracking in our communities. AB 591 would require oil and gas companies to disclose--for the first time--when and where they are fracking, what chemicals they are using, and how much of our scarce water they consume. All of this information would be published on a public web site.

This bill has already passed the State Assembly and is due up for a vote in the State Senate. send an email to your state Senator which says something like:

"I urge you to support AB 591 because Californians have the right to know which chemicals companies are using when fracking for oil and gas in California.

California has the opportunity to avoid the problems that fracking for oil and gas has caused in other states by ensuring we know where and how these processes are being used. Tracking where fracking is occurring and disclosing the chemicals being used on a state-run public website is an important first step.

As a California resident, I want and have a right to this information. That's why I support AB 591, and expect California's leaders to do the same."

--Ken Cook, Environmental Working Group

The text above was written by Environmental Working Group

Chapter Conservation Conference Call August 2, 2011

Attendees; Carol Witham (Sacvalley), Lori Hubbart (DKY) **Dorie Giragosian (Kern County)** Celia Kutcher (Orange county), Greg Suba, William Hamilton (State Office)

Contributing; Eva Buxton (Marin Chapter), Riverside/San Bernadino Chapter

CDFa seeks programmatic EIR for pesticide spraying

Over the last three weeks Greg Suba at the state office has been debating with the Dept. of Food and Agriculture (CDFa) about their proposition to create a programmatic EIR for spraying pest management tactics and programs including pesticide and herbicide use. Some interest groups want to see CDFa move to a "no spraying" approach. There is a lack of trust between much of the public and the CDFa and these groups now feel like their concerns are being ignored. In addition there is concern that the creation of a programmatic EIR would set a damaging CEQA precedent because it would be too broad and cover too much. This programmatic EIR might also put in place an inflexible policy of spraying. There is also a fear that the programmatic EIR could truncate public input.

CNPS was asked to sign a "no spray" letter destined for CDFa, however this is not CNPS policy. CNPS instead sent a letter stating our position on spraying; CNPS sees benefit in measured spraying to help control populations of exotic plants. CNPS encouraged CDFa not to be hasty in its processes and to create an advisory board to address the public's concerns.

Hopefully CDFa will modify the EIR to include these concerns and other public comments. The project is currently in the scoping phase.

Creating more wilderness lands in Kern County

Ken Salazar, director of the interior is looking to establish new wilderness areas in California. He wants to discuss the issue with local counties and supervisors. Greg sent a request to Conservation Chairs and others in those counties for which county supervisor contacts could be helpful. Salazar's timeline for information gathering is very short - end of August.

Center for Plant Conservation will do an article on California

A team of six journalists are coming to California for nine days to do a special article on California's flora. They will arrive in Oakland then come to Sacramento where Greg Suba, Vern Goehring, John Willoughby, and representatives from CDFG (Mary Ann Showers), BLM (Christina Lund), and USFWS (Rick Kearney, Connie Rutherford) will give them a presentation on the natural history of, and current issues with California's diverse flora. Then they will work their way back to Bay Area, then south along the coast towards Santa Barbara, and visit the Transverse Range and the desert as well.

The details of the visit are less than perfect. The journalists are arriving in August, and are not visiting much of the state. It's still a great opportunity to spread the message of plant conservation efforts in CA to a national audience (via a special issue of the publication *Plant Conservation*).

Potential road through the pygmy forest

Lori reports that Mendocino County wants a new road built south of Fort Bragg and a few of the project alternates go through a section of pygmy forest. The pygmy forest is considered rare but the area in question is not in the coastal zone. There are other pygmy forests that would benefit from restoration in the area. Restoring the forests could serve as mitigation for the damage caused by construction; however the county would have to agree to leave the mitigated areas as such thereafter. There are few employees of the county, and CNPS has been able to maintain a good relationship with them. The next public meeting is in a week.

Confidential Conservation agreements?

It's been made public that the Center for Biodiversity (CBD) entered into a secret agreement with Brightsource over the development of renewable energy at Ivanpah Valley. The deal sacrifices much desert tortoise habitat in exchange for mitigation lands elsewhere. Other details of the agreement are secret. CNPS opposed this project but lacked the ability to sue on our own. We were surprised when CBD settled, and there is internal hostility at CBD over this issue as well.

Although the outcome at Ivanpah was disappointing, the issue of secret agreements remains. Several feel that CBD set a bad precedent and that CNPS should not enter into secret agreements because science and conservation rely on transparency. Additionally, the public and other conservation organizations can't evaluate agreements if they are secret. Those on the call wondered if there would be a chance to address the issue of settlements and transparency at the January conference, but during what session?

[the AP news article that addresses this issue can be viewed on our website www.KernCNPS.org].

High Speed Rail impacts

Dorie reported out on HSR updates. Much uncertainty about the impacts surrounding the development of the high speed rail remain. Specifically, no-one can tell exactly where the rail goes once it enters Tejon Ranch because the maps are too coarse. Additionally, on the maps the track is marked by such a large green line that it is impractical for CNPS to survey for rare plants. We will need the details a good deal in advance so that we can effectively respond.

The rail is also slated to go through the Tehachapi mountain pass. At time the rail will pass through the ground and in other areas it will be above the ground. High Speed rail may be a great idea but in the end we may oppose it. One idea that might minimize impacts would be to use existing train routes.

There is much uncertainty surrounding the development of high speed rail. We should hold off on making any statements about it until we have more details.

Conservation in Marin

Eva Buxton sent in the following information. CNPS Marin is in the process of writing the Tiburon Planning Commission over the approval of the Alta Robles residential project. This project would impact Marin Western Flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*) and Tiburon buckwheat (*Eriogonum luteolum ssp. caninum*) as well as serpentine grasses and other native grasslands. There is an upcoming hearing on this matter as well.

Urban Sprawl next to Joshua Tree?

The Riverside / San Bernardino Chapter sent the following information.

Glorious Land Company (GLC) is attempting to develop in Shavers Valley adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park. This development is in direct conflict with the Coachella Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan that has taken over six million dollars and several years to create. This development would irreparably destroy thousands of acres of wildlife habitat and irreparably damage Joshua Tree. CNPS is a member of the much larger “Coalition to Save Shaver’s Valley” which also includes Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, The Center for Biodiversity and others. This project is working towards an EIR in the coming 6-9 months.

Closing remarks

Our next chapter meeting will be postponed until October since our September Conservation Symposium will more than substitute for our September call. Thank you all for your input and contributions!

William Hamilton, Conservation Coordinator



EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS

As a reminder, always check the website to confirm if there are last-minute location changes, or other notices. We meet on the third Tuesday of most months, from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. Meetings are most often at 1300 17th Street, at the Superintendent of Schools Building (1st Floor, with the tables). Our alternate meeting location is the University Square Building, at 2000 “K” Street. This building also has parking on the back side, and we meet on the 1st floor, too. Refreshments are served!

Dorie G.

September 20th, (Univ. Square, US2, 7 - 9 pm)

The presentation will revolve around “**Raising and Caring for California Native Plants.**”

Our September meeting this month will be on the 20th, at the University Square Building, in room US 2, on the 1st floor, located at 2000 “K” Street. It will be the usual time, 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm. First, there should be time for “keying” out plants to learn identification, as well as time for refreshments and visiting.

Around 7:00, we will sit down to listen to our speaker, **Steve Kranyak**, who has been in the Bakersfield area for about 25 years. He has been a member of the Green Thumb Garden Club for quite a while. His botanical skills are primarily self-taught thru reading, discussion, and experimenting in the ground.

We are going to be able to hear him tell us what he has learned in his 20 years of planting and growing California Native Plants. His enthusiasm is contagious. His garden now houses many different species of plants, both large and small. He will have pictures to show us how the yard has evolved, will tell us what he learned, and will answer our questions and participate in a discussion, following his presentation.

October 18th, (location not set yet).

This presentation will be “**Easy Natives for your Garden.**”

Ongoing: First Saturday, work parties at the Panorama Vista Preserve. This restoration project has been going on for over three years, as a part of the broader Kern River Bike Trail. Work can include, potting, transplanting, preparing cuttings, and the two ever popular, and highly sought after, jobs: Weeding, and Watering! *You may spend as much time as you wish!!*

We have a few Chapter members working at the Panorama Vista Preserve several days a week. Come see what they are doing, see how their garden grows, and then, think about giving a couple of hours of work. They have been propagating from seeds and cuttings taken from near-by, up stream habitat, and growing them in the Preserve Nursery Area. Now that the weather is getting cooler, it is a chance for us to get some good exercise. Members of the Audubon Society also work at the Preserve on the first Saturday, and you might see some friends, or make new ones. Besides, this way, you can find out what the black and white bird was that took your glove!

AT LAST, A CAMPING FIELD TRIP TO HORSE MEADOW!

Third try is the charm, and on Friday evening Dinah Campbell and Lucy Clark were joined by Heather Root and Steve Laymon at Horse Meadow Campground (elevation 7700') south of the Sherman Pass Rd. Steve and Lucy took a fast hike up a nearby mountain to get pictures of a strange carrot found earlier in the day. This is the kind of plant that hooks you on botany- someone said the stemless leaves looked like "green brain matter"- and they were everywhere! Flowers were on the spherical umbels, but seeds (so critical to



ID'ing Apiaceae) were also present. Steve ID'ed it as *Oreonana clementis*, or Dwarf Mountain Parsley (not Teeny Cookie?) Some of the other campground finds were: *Calochortus invenustus*, *Kelloggia galiodes*, and along the beautiful creek, *Lillium kellyannum* Tiger Lily, *Helenium bigelovii* Bigelow Sneezeweed, *Lupinus latifolius* var *columbianus* Broadleaf Lupine, and NO Gentians! We were too early for this cool year!

The next morning we were joined by Clyde Golden, and our tour of Sherman Pass Road began. We visited three meadows and the Pass parking lot! The *Penstemon heterodoxus* got us started in the parking lot, then we were puzzled by *Miuartia nuttallii* Nuttall's Sandwort and *Arabis holboellii*, and we couldn't believe we had spent so much time in the parking lot, with all of the unpaved beauty on that road!

Highlights of the meadows were lots of *Dodecatheon jefferyi* Shooting Stars, *Delphinium* cf. *gracilentum* Slender Larkspur



(which made us crazy, until we realized it was just a very poor key), *Horkelliella purpurascens*, *Collomia linearis* Tiny Trumpet, a suite of *Mimulus* species, and many, many tree frogs *Hyla regilla*, in two color variations! Also seen in vibrant bloom along the road, were all of the penstemons on the plant list for Sherman Pass Rd, which is posted on www.kerncnps.org.

The day ended around 5:30, with a two-plus hour thunderstorm with torrential rain and hail as we took down our tents and got out of there, soaking wet. As Dinah said, "Do we do these things so we have a good story?". I think the answer is also: We do this because the flowers are so terrific! And we had a great time! Join us next year.

Lucy Clark

**NAME THAT PLANT CONTEST WINNER:
ALI SHEEHEY**

Great Valley Scorpionweed, *Phacelia ciliata*



CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference has Something for Everyone!

The upcoming statewide CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference, in San Diego, Jan 10-14, 2012 is an opportunity for all of us to come together and celebrate everything we do as a leading plant conservation organization in California. Our membership includes top level scientists and decision-makers in agencies, universities, consulting firms, and non-profit environmental organizations as well as the grassroots activists working hard on the front lines. We will all join hands at the conference and share what we know and how we do it. Hundreds of CNPS volunteers from chapters throughout the state have contributed to the planning and execution of this event over the last two and a half years. There are sessions and activities for everyone from career botanists to garden enthusiasts.

The committees have planned 5 days of non-stop workshops, talks, and social and art events. You could learn how to start a plant restoration nursery at a workshop, listen to talks on a particular rare plant or invasive species, or contribute to a conversation about CEQA or desert energy projects. There will be five sessions focusing on regional issues from north to south, including those of Baja California. To nourish your appreciation of our native landscape you may choose to take a drawing workshop with John Muir Laws, read a poem, submit a photograph, admire botanical art, or sing and play music. There will be opportunities to take action on your subject of interest and numerous social events where you will see and meet CNPS members and other experts from all over the state and beyond.

Registration is now open for both the conference events and the hotel. Early registration discounts are available until Oct 31, with additional discounts for CNPS members and students. Special CNPS conference discounts are available at the conference hotel, the Town and Country Resort, until Dec 16 or until all rooms are taken. You may register for the conference and/or the hotel through our website at www.CNPS.org/2012.

There are a million ways that you can participate in this conference from presenting or attending talks to taking tickets at the door. We need scores of volunteers during the days of the conference and we offer registration rebates to all volunteers who work eight hours or more. If you would like to volunteer, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Michelle Cox at volunteers2012@cnps.org.

If you are a student or know students that might want to attend the conference, check out the Student Opportunities and Activities (including registration and/or travel stipend funding) on our conference website, www.cnps.org/2012.

Please visit the conference website, www.cnps.org/2012, for up to date information on all the events. We hope to see you there!

Josie Crawford
Conference Coordinator

BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION BY THE KERN RIVER VALLEY GARDEN GROUP:

California Native Succulents Article: <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/2318/#b>

“Dave's Garden is a huge plant and gardening information website that often has outstanding articles that fit our IWV and surrounding area conditions. You might check it out at davesgarden.com; you can join or not and still enjoy the website.”

Judy Talbot

Changes to the CNPS Website

CNPS has recently upgraded our Web interface, the technology that provides visitors to our main website the ability to join CNPS, make a donation, or get information about our planned giving program online. This upgrade will provide new and existing CNPS members with additional options to view their gift records, register for statewide events such as the 2012 Conservation Conference, and sign up for professional workshops, all through a secure member login and password. Eventually we hope to send special messages, newsletters, and alerts tailored to our members' interests through this new interface.

Existing members can register online by going to www.cnps.org and clicking on the Join/Renew or Support CNPS buttons. Existing and new members will navigate to a new page to register a user name and password. Immediately upon registering, members or visitors can make a donation, view an event calendar, sign up for a new membership, or register for statewide events. After 24 to 48 hours of completing the registration process, new or existing members will receive a confirmation email and can log back into the site to view their giving history, renew an existing membership, and receive special messages.

If you have any questions or feedback about the new site, please email cnps@cnps.org.

Tara Hansen, Executive Director, California Native Plant Society
(916) 447-2677 x201

Donations Needed!

The 2012 Conference Silent Auction Committee is looking for donations and committee members! The 2009 Conference Auction raised almost \$10,000 for CNPS' Conservation Program; let's beat our own record in the name of California's native plants! Ideas for donations include: plant themed and handmade artwork, books, gardening accessories, jewelry, and other items of beauty, value, or interest. If you would like to donate, please fill out the Auction Donor Form available at the www.cnps.org website. If you do not have something special to donate please consider donating your time by joining the Silent Auction Committee and soliciting donations or volunteering at the conference. For questions about donations or volunteer opportunities please contact silentauction2012@cnps.org. Thanks and let me know if you need more information or have any questions.

Stephanie Shigematsu

CONTACT INFO

president: Dorie Giragosian
dorengiragosian@peoplepc.com

past-president: Lucy Clark
lucyg391@gmail.com

newsletter/website: Stephen Cooley
mimulusmemo@bak.rr.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.kerncnps.org



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

THE MISSION OF CNPS IS TO CONSERVE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS AND THEIR NATURAL HABITATS, AND INCREASE UNDERSTANDING, APPRECIATION, AND HORTICULTURAL USE OF NATIVE PLANTS. OUR VISION INCLUDES A FUTURE WHERE:

Californians actively support the Society's mission, which is accomplished through education, plant science, advocacy, land stewardship and native plant gardening.

Californians value native plants, plant communities and healthy ecosystems as essential to the well being of all living things.

Californians can experience native plants throughout the state, in natural environments and human-made landscapes.

California's extensive and interconnected natural habitats are preserved.

CNPS IS THE LEADER FOR PROVIDING RELIABLE INFORMATION ON CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS AND PLANT CONSERVATION. COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ABOUT CALIFORNIA'S FLORA AND VEGETATION COMMUNITIES IS AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT THE STATE FOR CONSERVATION AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

CNPS'S LEADERSHIP INFLUENCES PERSONAL ETHICS AND ACTIONS,
AS WELL AS PUBLIC POLICY FOR NATIVE PLANT PROTECTION.



CNPS – Kern County Chapter
% Stephen Cooley, Editor
minusmemo@bak.rr.com