



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2009–MARCH 2010

Achievements

Despite the adverse impact of the economic downturn, which has reduced funding for conservation planning in both public and private sectors, CNPS has remained strong. Our solid base of members, donors, staff, and volunteers continues to provide leadership in native plant protection across the state.

Even so, the need for our unique contributions toward conservation in California has grown in a political environment focused on jump-starting job creation and green energy solutions at all costs. Often the new development needed to accomplish these goals takes place in areas that lack adequate long-range planning mechanisms to protect intact ecosystems. During 2009–2010, CNPS was there to monitor new project applications, contribute plant data, provide testimony at public hearings, and advocate for the maximum protection of native plants in sensitive habitat areas across California.

In addition, CNPS staff and members throughout our 33 chapters engaged people of all ages in activities designed to foster a connection with our State's beautiful native flora and natural landscapes. Field trips, professional training for botanists, symposiums on gardening with native plants, and public programs on conservation topics are just a few of the many ways CNPS promoted native plant conservation this past year.

With all CNPS has and still wants to accomplish in native plant protection in California, your support is needed now more than ever. Please read on to learn more about the Society's efforts and results during the 2009–2010 fiscal year.



Stephen Rosenthal

Pristine areas such as here in Coyote Lake County Park inspire CNPS staff and volunteers to help preserve and protect California's natural areas.

33 LOCAL CHAPTERS: NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION AND HORTICULTURE ADVOCATES

CNPS volunteer scientists, educators, and advocates dedicated an estimated 117,000 hours to promote the California Native Plant Society's mission throughout California in 2009. CNPS's 33 chapters play key roles in educating the public about the importance and beauty of native plants; promoting the use of native plants in home gardens and water-wise landscaping; monitoring rare plant populations and conducting vegetation surveys; detecting and eradicating invasive non-native species; and commenting on impacts to regional conservation issues.

Chapters offer field trips, public programs, restoration work projects, plant sales, educational activities, and newsletters; they monitor natural areas by providing science-based input to planners and policymakers; they maintain public native plant gardens;

and they collaborate with other environmental organizations and agencies, all in the name of preserving and promoting California's native plants and habitats.

Below is just a small sample of what a few of our chapters accomplished in Fiscal Year 2009–2010.

CHANNEL ISLANDS CHAPTER

Ventura and part of Santa Barbara Counties

LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM

The Channel Islands Chapter held a tremendously successful Native Plant Landscape Symposium in February 2010. Seven experts spoke on a variety of topics from plant choices for the home landscape, irrigation, wildland interface, designing for wildlife, cultural uses of native plants, landscaping under oak trees, lawn replacement, and other topics to over 200 participants. This fundraiser brought in many new chapter members. Feedback from the attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and demon-

strated that the audience for native plant landscaping is alive, well, and growing.

EAST BAY CHAPTER

Contra Costa and Alameda Counties

MULTIPLE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

East Bay Chapter members contributed nearly 3,000 volunteer hours to a multitude of local conservation issues in 2009.

Volunteers were hard at work fighting shoreline development at a planned casino site in Point Molate in Richmond and the proposed Russell City Energy Center power plant in Hayward. They spoke out against the poor environmental precedents proposed by the Antioch Roddy Ranch housing subdivision and New Farm in Tassajara Valley in some of the last remaining floristically significant wildland in the East Bay. Joining the local grassroots organization, Friends of Springtown, the chapter fought for better protection of the fragile Springtown alkali sink. It also pushed for better management of the native grasslands at Point Pinole Regional Park. In Concord, the chapter advocated for the decommissioned Concord Naval Weapons Station to include intact tracts of open space in their re-use plan.

Two solid conservation successes were

achieved this year. The proposed new ball-park plan for the Oakland A's in Fremont that threatened fragile vernal pools at Warm Springs was withdrawn. In addition, the chapter's close working relationship with the East Bay Regional Parks District was rewarded with the implementation of a solid management plan of the 46-acre Skyline Serpentine Prairie in the Oakland Hills that contains endangered plant species.

Volunteers contributed another 1,000 hours to the chapter's locally rare and unusual plants program. They rediscovered several historic plant populations that had not been reported since at least 1975, and some new plants that had not been known previously to occur in the East Bay were also found. These exciting updates were included in the eighth edition of the chapter's publication, *Rare, Unusual, and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties*, the first new edition in over six years.

LOS ANGELES/SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

Northwest Los Angeles County

PULLING WEEDS, RESTORING HABITAT

Continuing the successful multifaceted approach to the eradication and manage-

ment of public lands, Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountain chapter volunteers once again logged more than 1,000 hours pulling weeds on public lands in the Santa Monica Mountains, the Sepulveda Dam Basin, Malibu Creek State Park, Malibu Bluffs Park, Cold Creek, Tapia Park, Solstice Canyon, Bull Creek, Caballero Canyon, and along the Los Angeles River. In addition to the hard work of volunteers, an independent contractor was employed with funds raised from chapter donations to remove arundo and other highly invasive weeds that were too difficult for volunteers to pull. As part of this ambitious restoration effort, hundreds of additional hours were contributed toward the effort of replacing those noxious weeds with native plants.

MOUNT LASSEN CHAPTER

Butte, Glenn, Tehama, and Plumas Counties

K-12 OUTREACH AND WEED ERADICATION

The Mount Lassen chapter renewed its efforts to instill a love and understanding of nature in young people in 2009–10. The chapter continued to sponsor two elementary school students to attend the summer session at Chico Creek Nature Center. The education chairperson worked with a local elementary school to reinvigorate the student garden, which emphasizes native plants and sustainability. In addition, the horticulture chairperson worked with the Chico Area Recreation and Park District and a high school horticulture club, sharing the Chapter's knowledge of invasive plants, seed collecting, and propagation of native species.

The chapter also continued its maintenance and restoration work at the native plant garden in the Chico Creek Nature Center, and on the Yahi Trail in Upper Bidwell Park. Utilizing GPS data, and partnering with the Friends of Bidwell Park, the chapter brought their Spanish broom eradication project of many years



Amber Swanson

CNPS members from the East Bay and Bristlecone Chapters went on a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt outing to sand dunes near the Iron Mountains on the San Bernardino/Riverside County border. This CNPS program teams experienced botanists with amateur native plant enthusiasts to locate rare plants on public lands throughout California.

into the 21st century. Visitors to the park are now encouraged to note the GPS locations of broom and send that information to the chapter's invasives/exotics chairperson so that all known broom occurrences in the largest municipal park West of the Mississippi can be plotted on a master map. Volunteers can also sign up to receive email notifications of broom eradication work days, or work on a similar eradication project involving another highly invasive species in the park, bladder senna.

NAPA VALLEY CHAPTER

Napa County

NURSERY AND PUBLIC NATIVE GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

In 2009 the chapter made many improvements to its native plant nursery. The nursery driveway was graveled to reduce weeds, ground squirrels and the rattlesnakes they attract, and to improve access to the site during the winter months. Bees were added to pollinate the nursery. Over 3,600 poppies and lupines were grown for use at the Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden, spring chapter plant sale, and for outreach purposes. Also added was a screen room to protect seedlings.

At the Martha Walker Native Habitat Garden in Napa, which the chapter oversees, a new curator was hired. Volunteers including Eagle Scouts converted one-third of an acre to a bunch grass and wildflower meadow by planting 3,000 plugs of fescues and yarrow. Natives were also planted along a 200-foot dry creek bed, and volunteers installed two bridges and birdhouses. A grant from the local Wildlife Commission allowed the chapter to update the garden's irrigation system, plant the redwood grove understory, and complete the meadow. The three-acre public garden serves as an outdoor classroom to the public and provides free nature classes for students of the Napa Watershed in grades 3–5.



Frank Wallace

CNPS staff and members are committed to long-term restoration of the environment. These before and after photos of invasive weed removal and subsequent native plant revegetation reflect the persistence of the Sacramento Weed Warriors, a project of the Sacramento Valley Chapter that is now in its eleventh year.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER

Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, Sutter, Yuba, and Lower Placer Counties

"WEED WARRIORS" AND NURSERY EXPANSION

Volunteers with the highly successful chapter-sponsored Sacramento Weed Warriors program clocked over 789 workdays in 2009, removing invasive weeds such as giant reed, red sesbania, Spanish and French broom, and ludwigia from the region's natural areas. In addition, the group planted and caged young oak trees in a collaborative restoration project with the American River Parkway Foundation.

Also located on the American River Parkway, the new chapter nursery, "Elderberry Farms," was able to expand, thanks to the hard work of volunteers, who put in 1,400 hours to help improve the nursery site. The nursery's mission is to promote awareness of the benefits of native plants, encourage community involvement, support preservation of the unique native plant resources of the American River Parkway ecosystem, and provide a source of locally native plants for restoration projects and backyard gardeners.

Chapter volunteers also spent 800 hours during the year maintaining the native plant demonstration garden in the Sacramento Old City Cemetery, beautifying this historic point of interest visited by thousands of people each year. The Stockton subchapter spent considerable effort maintaining and improving the Native Plant Garden at Oak Grove Regional Park. Volunteers grew, collected, weeded, and watered valley oaks and native grasses. Overall, the chapter accumulated over 7,572 hours in restoration, weed eradication, and garden and nursery maintenance in 2009.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER

Santa Clara and Southern San Mateo County

BROAD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The community involvement of the Santa Clara Valley chapter remains at an all-time high. The chapter office is located in Peninsula Conservation Center in Palo Alto, along with nine other environmental and nonprofit organizations. This proximity to other groups helps foster collaboration and cooperation.

The chapter trains docents for Edgewood County Preserve, Midpeninsula Regional



Celia Kutcher

Hikes are a natural way to nurture children's inherent curiosity about nature. This "tyke hike" for kids was led by Orange County Chapter members.

Open Space District, and Coyote Ridge; is a representative on the Bay Area Open Space Council; is a member of the Stakeholder Committee for the Santa Clara Valley HCP/NCCP, a multi-species plan; is active in both San Mateo County and Santa Clara County Weed Management Areas; monitors riparian and wetland areas in participation with several watershed and creek groups; stewards the Native Hill (Foothill Community College) native plant garden; holds work parties at the San Jose State Botanical Garden; performs year-round weed maintenance at Foothills Park and Preserve in Palo Alto—and that's only the short list!

The Santa Clara Valley chapter is a solid community member. This past year, volunteers donated 4,067 volunteer hours to work parties; 3,597 hours for plant sales and the chapter wildflower show; tabled at 15 public outreach events; gave \$4,500 in scholarships to three graduate students; and held over 20 "Gardening with Natives" meetings, workshops, and programs in conjunction with public libraries in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

CNPS STATE PROGRAMS

EDUCATION PROGRAM

In the fall of 2008, Josie Crawford became

the first Education Program Director for the Society, responsible for overseeing the previous four working groups of the Education Program: the previously existing Educational Grants and Plant Science Training working groups, and the new Stewardship and Education and Conference committees. During the 2009–2010 fiscal year, the program expanded extensively under the creative energies of its new full-time Program Director and the talented volunteers who continued to step up and contribute their valuable time to the advisory committees that help support the program

Post-Conference Action Committee

Following the success of the CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference, this committee analyzed and prioritized suggestions and solutions offered during the conference and closing plenary session. Ideas proposed included securing funding, increasing outreach, and developing a stronger CNPS message that connects plant conservation with the new green movement and that is adapted for a broader audience through modern media. The committee has also encouraged conference participants and CNPS members to become or stay active in the organization.

Stewardship And Education Committee

The Stewardship and Education Committee convened in April 2009 to develop statewide educational outreach programs directed toward the public, especially youth. The first project was to develop videos and an observation-based journaling curriculum, with John Muir Laws and Emily Breunig serving as coauthors. The project was funded by a grant from the Jiji Foundation. The curriculum is available for free download at www.cnps.org.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt

The Rare Plant Treasure Hunt was officially launched in February 2010 after two grants were received: one from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the Mojave Desert, and an internal grant using Billisoly funds for the remainder of the state. Two staff were hired, one for each region. A collaborative project between the Education, Rare Plant, and Vegetation Programs, the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt teams botanists with amateurs to look for and update new and historic rare plant occurrences statewide. The first season was a tremendous success, exceeding our expectations. More than 260 volunteers and partners recorded over 600 rare plant population occurrences and contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours statewide.

Cal-ECO

In 2009 the Education Program Director spearheaded the formation of California Ecological Conservation Organizations, or Cal-ECO. Its three main goals are: 1) to create a certification program for botanists, 2) to support students and keep botanical institutions alive and vital, and 3) to improve communication between the member organizations to avoid conflicts between members' conferences. Committees were formed to focus on certification and education.

Cal-ECO is comprised of CNPS (lead), California Native Grasslands Association,

Society of Ecological Restoration (California), California Invasive Plant Council, Northern California Botanists, Southern California Botanists, California Botanical Society, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Jepson Herbarium, and the UC Davis Center for Plant Diversity. Two subcommittees were formed to look into botanist certification and educational support.

CNPS 2012 Conservation Conference

The Conference steering committee met twice to make recommendations about the scope and content of the next CNPS conference in San Diego in 2012. Out of this committee, members formed the Program Committee, which is responsible for the concurrent sessions, poster sessions, plenary speakers, workshops, and field trips.

Plant Science Training Program

The Plant Science Training Program provides professional skill-building workshops that teach survey and mapping protocols for rare plants, wetland plants, and vegetation. The eight workshops in 2009 provided training to 134 people. This is a 9% increase in attendance over 2008. Workshops were attended by staff from agencies, biological consulting firms, and nonprofits, and by students and CNPS members. The CNPS Work Exchange Program provided waived or reduced fees to nearly 16% of all attendees, primarily through support by the Jiji Foundation. As a result, the percentage of students and nonprofit staff in attendance has nearly doubled. The Jiji Foundation grant will contribute the same amount for the 2010 workshop season for students and under-employed attendees.

CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The CNPS Conservation Program continues to expand connections both within and beyond the Society. With a full-time Program Director now on staff in the CNPS State Office, the Conservation Program was

able to devote substantial time and effort building partnerships with other environmental organizations, developing a greater presence with state and federal regulatory agencies, and reinvigorating relationships in the State Capital. Equally important has been Conservation Program Director Greg Suba's work on cross-program planning and consultation with fellow Rare Plant, Vegetation, and Education Program staff, and outreach and networking with CNPS Chapter conservation advocates.

A major Conservation Program focus continued to be the protection of rare plant populations and plant communities threatened by development of poorly sited desert solar and wind energy projects. Although projects with disastrous environmental impacts have been approved despite the coordinated efforts of several environmental groups, the written and oral comment and testimony provided by CNPS during environmental reviews of several desert energy projects has raised awareness of the ecological requirements for desert plants and plant communities. This has led to a significant reduction in project impacts and contributed to better mitigation measures that would otherwise not have been required by regulatory agencies.

VEGETATION PROGRAM

The CNPS Vegetation Program employs five full-time and additional seasonal staff on projects to enhance knowledge, conservation, and management of native plant habitats around the state. The program has worked on a variety of projects this year from north-central California to the far south. Our resulting work provides necessary vegetation maps, reports, and surveys for land managers and planners to better evaluate and protect California's precious habitats, and to improve management decisions by having detailed and high-quality information.

In the Lassen Foothills, CNPS collaborated with Aerial Information Systems,

The Nature Conservancy, and Tehama County Resource Conservation District to complete a detailed vegetation map and fire condition map. The vegetation map covered 100,000 acres and was based on surveys representing 35 vegetation alliances and other habitat characteristics. Both maps were interpreted for long-term resource and fire protection planning, including recommendations for prescribed burning in grassland and oak woodland types. Funding for this project was provided by the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation.

In Marin County, CNPS collaborated with the Marin County Open Space District to produce a report that classified and described 40 vegetation alliances and 79 associations or semi-natural stand types.

In Pinnacles National Monument, CNPS collaborated with Aerial Information Systems and NatureServe to produce a detailed vegetation map and report. The map covers 45,000 acres, the report summarizes over 45 vegetation alliances and 67 associations, and 760 assessment surveys verify the map's accuracy. The National Park Service supported this work.

In the Sierra Nevada, CNPS finished the first draft of a comprehensive assessment report about fen vegetation in collaboration



Jeanette Wrynski

Thousands of students are now learning to fine-tune their naturalist observation skills, thanks to a free journaling curriculum organized and sponsored by CNPS.



Julie Evans

CNPS has been working closely with state and federal agencies so that large renewable energy projects are located in areas of the Mojave Desert that minimize impacts to sensitive habitat. Part of that involves gathering more information needed to complete a detailed vegetation map of the area.

with U.S. Forest Service and UC Davis. CNPS also characterized fens at three sites in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, where staff conducted 30 new vegetation surveys in 18 vegetation types and mapped 53 vegetation stands across 14 acres.

In Los Angeles County, CNPS collaborated with Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy to produce a fine-scale map for 1,200 acres of Rancho Palos Verdes preserve lands, and we produced a report that categorized 26 alliances and 38 associations or semi-natural stands.

Across the state, staff provided over 10 workshops on vegetation classification, vernal pool plants, field sampling, fen vegetation, and vegetation mapping to over 200 agency staff, biological consultants, academics, land trusts, and CNPS members. These workshops provide important training to ensure that essential tools for landscape-level conservation and management efforts are used in accordance with state protocols for mapping and classification. Program staff also have been working to acquire funding for additional projects, including the state's grasslands, *A Manual of California Vegetation's* online database, southern Sierra foothills, and rare plant community initiatives.

RARE PLANT PROGRAM

The CNPS Rare Plant Program continued to maintain the *CNPS Online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants*, a Web-based database of information on more than 2,200 of the state's rarest plants. The Inventory is a widely-recognized resource that promotes scientific research and conservation planning, and is used in the effective enforcement of environmental laws. The Inventory also facilitates education about California's rare plants, which encourages stewardship and conservation.

In order to keep the *Inventory* up-to-date, the Rare Plant Program evaluates the conservation status of dozens of plants each year. During the 2009–2010 fiscal year, we completed status reviews on 44 rare plant taxa, and updated information on the threats, phenology, elevation ranges, and habitats for hundreds of other rare plants. More than 300 botanists representing state and federal agencies, consulting firms, academic institutions, CNPS, and other conservation organizations continue to volunteer their time and energy to contribute rare plant data as well as review proposed changes to the *Inventory* on a regular basis.

HORTICULTURE PROGRAM

Horticulture and native plant gardening is an essential bridge to the general public, introducing them to the importance and beauty of native plants, attracting new members, and engaging them with our mission. Although the Society's Horticulture Program still lacks full-time paid staff to help coordinate statewide efforts, the program has advanced new initiatives during the past year through a volunteer program committee of horticultural experts and native plant gardening enthusiasts led by 2009 Chairperson Chris Lewis and the Executive Director.

During the 2009–2010 fiscal year, the "Growing Natives" section of the CNPS website was completely reorganized and expanded with the addition of numerous articles, a "blog" that allows Horticulture Committee and other CNPS members to contribute feature articles and photos, and an event calendar for plant sales and statewide horticultural events. The program also launched a quarterly edition of the monthly CNPS E-Newsletter focused entirely on native gardening topics. The Horticulture Committee actively solicited articles and contributed content for this newsletter, which is distributed by email to over 2,000 subscribers, both members and non-members alike.

While the statewide program was able to provide some centralized information through its website, blog, and e-newsletter, the bulk of program activities during 2009–2010 continued to take place in the Society's 33 chapters. During the year, chapters continued to plan and hold plant sales, garden tours, and native gardening educational events and seminars. Public interest in native plants—their water-saving qualities and habitat values—is at an all-time high and CNPS chapters lead the charge in facilitating the outreach necessary to introduce the benefits of native plants in home gardens throughout California's communities. 🌱

2009–2010 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Revenue & Other Support

Member Dues	414,134
Donations	418,911
Sales, net of Cost of Sales	52,373
Contract Income.	627,401
Workshops & Other Income	112,806
Total Revenue & Other Support	1,625,625

Program & Administrative Expenses

Management & General.	255,881
Board8,557
Fundraising.	180,514
Plant Science	670,761
Conservation.	113,087
Education & Horticulture	142,574
Fremontia & Bulletin	103,922
Chapter Services.	134,853
Sales	68,507
Total Expenses	1,678,656

Change in Assets.	-53,031
Net Assets, March 31, 2010	1,703,242

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, 3/31/2010

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents.	1,513,929
Contracts receivable.	413,503
Prepaid expenses.	13,059
Inventory.	63,993
Investments	157,072
Sales accounts receivable	17,041
Chapter poster sales accounts receivable1,432
Deposits	2,650
Office equipment, net of depreciation	40,697
Land	4,200
Total Assets	2,227,576

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	390,248
Accrued Expenses	65,560
Deferred Income	68,526
Total Current Liabilities	524,334

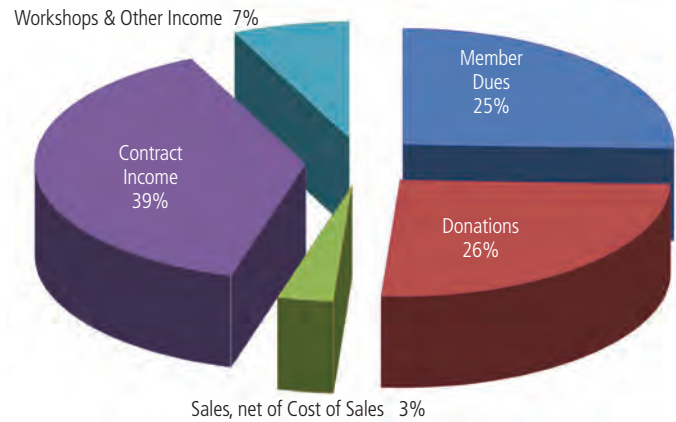
Net Assets

Undesignated	296,179
Board Designated	1,133,417
Temporarily Restricted.	189,046
Permanently Restricted	84,600
Total Net Assets	1,703,242
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	2,227,576

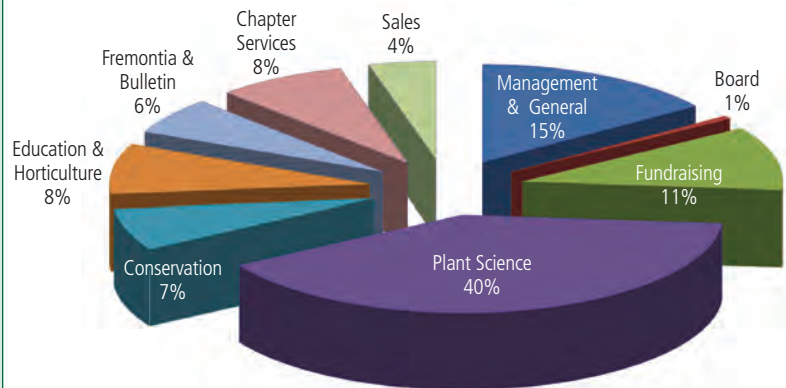
This Statement of Financial Activities and accompanying charts represent the Society's fiscal year (April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010), as stated in our financial statement audited by John Waddell & Company, CPAs. Total Membership dues and regular donations (excluding bequests) showed a marginal increase of just under 1%. CNPS received bequests totaling \$114,477. Net sales increased 71.8% with the release of the second edition of the *Manual of California Vegetation* and distribution of *California Mosses*. Plant Science Program Expenses decreased significantly over the prior year due to a reduction in contract work. Net income for the year was aligned with budget projections, including the budgeted expenditure of some Retained Surplus for expanded program work in conservation and for technology upgrades, leaving the Society with a change in assets of -\$53,031.

The Society provides services (sales tax and financial reporting, membership management, insurance coverage, etc.) for its 33 chapters. However, additional chapter-generated income and chapter assets are not represented in this statement of activities. 🌱

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT



PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



2009–2010 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

Major Donors

We wish to thank the following major donors for their contributions to CNPS during fiscal year 2009–2010. Their continuing support is vital to the work of CNPS.

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Aaron Sims

Endemic to California's central coast, La Panza mariposa lily (*Calochortus simulans*) is threatened by grazing and development, and possibly threatened by recreational activities and vehicles.

Long-Term Donors

The Society would like to thank the following donors for their long-term support to CNPS. Donor Circle members have contributed \$25,000 or more to CNPS over the past 10 years. Legacy Circle members have informed us that they have included CNPS in their estate plans.

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