

CNPS 2012 CONSERVATION CONFERENCE: CHAPTER POSTER ABSTRACTS
Chapter, poster titles, authors and contact for presenting author

BRISTLECONE CHAPTER: CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY IN THE EASTERN SIERRA

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The Bristlecone Chapter of CNPS continues to undertake and succeed in a plethora of activities throughout eastern California. Guest speakers are invited to the chapter's bi-monthly meetings. Recent speakers have included graduate students working on native plant research in eastern California, restoration ecologists working on the Owens Lakebed Dust Mitigation Project and other local individuals and organizations providing unique opportunities for native plant education. Our chapter holds several summer field trips, which continue to draw people from throughout the region to explore the large variety of wildflowers and other native plants from the deserts of the Death and Owens Valleys, to the high elevations of the Sierra Nevada. In 2011, several field trips took on work-related elements including maintaining the Bristlecone Chapter CNPS Adopt-A-Highway stretch and helping to control cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) in Devils Postpile National Monument. The Bristlecone Chapter continues to be active in discussions around groundwater pumping by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in the Owens Valley and provides a key source of information about this issue and several others to eastern California residents.

EAST BAY CHAPTER: POINT MOLATE – THANKS TO EAST BAY CNPS, A CASINO WASN'T IN THE CARDS

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We did our science- identifying, mapping and describing the most important botanical areas in the two counties that comprise our chapter; Alameda and Contra Costa. We knew that the Point Molate site was a conservation priority for us. Our chapter sprung into action when a developer partnered with a band of Pomo Indians to propose a mega casino, hotel and ferry complex at the Point Molate site. We knew science alone would not carry the day against such powerful opponents. So we formed a coalition of local conservation groups and allied our efforts. It was a long and arduous process, but in the end we prevailed and there will not be a casino built at Point Molate. The East Bay Chapter of CNPS will continue to track any and all proposals for this site, but the final fate of Point Molate is still to be determined.

LA/SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CHAPTER: NATIVE PLANT REVEGETATION IN THE SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN, VAN NUYS, CALIFORNIA (1979-2011)

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The Sepulvedav Dam Basin is an approximately 2,200-acre property controlled by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with portions leased to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP). In 1979 the USACE began to revegetate a 40-acre parcel of the site with native plants. In 1986, the City of Los Angeles expanded the wildlife reserve by adding an additional 60 acres of wildlife reserve, including an 11-acre pond with an island. Because the DRP had little experience managing wildlife reserves, an advisory committee to the City called the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee was established in 1990. Since then, the LA/Santa Monica Mountains chapter of CNPS, under the leadership of Steven Hartman, has guided the City in the planning and on-going management of

the wildlife areas in the basin. These efforts resulted in the installation of 7.5-acres of native plant landscaping along a berm surrounding a water treatment plant in the basin (at the time of its creation this site was the largest native landscaping project in the City of L.A.). This followed with the development of the Bull Creek Ecosystem Restoration Project in 2008 that includes a substantial stand of native grassland. In addition, the Metropolitan Transit Authority planted over 500,000 native plants along a 13.5 mile bus route through the San Fernando Valley, with only those plant species native to the Sepulveda Basin. Steve has been leading weeding teams to remove exotic and invasive species from the site and continues to oversee strategic herbicide application to control weeds within the planted areas.

ORANGE COUNTY: BUILDING NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION IN OC

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In order for native plant conservation to become important to the general public, people need to see the plants out in nature and around their homes and civic landscapes. Seeing the plants brings awareness of how natives look year-round, of their subtle beauty and seasonal changes and of how they form the authentic California landscape that once prevailed throughout Orange County (OC). Awareness brings the desire for OC's remaining natural open spaces to be preserved and restored. It inspires action and advocacy toward that end. The OC Chapter of CNPS is focusing on raising native plant awareness and advocacy in OC with a program that includes four primary activity areas: Explore, Grow, Research and Protect.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY CHAPTER: THREE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

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The Sacramento Valley Chapter of CNPS engages our community in plant and habitat conservation issues through a variety of Chapter programs and projects. We've chosen these three projects to highlight: the Sacramento Weed Warriors, the Mather Vernal Pool Preservation Project and the Sacramento Historic Cemetery Native Plant Demonstration Garden. Sacramento Weed Warriors is a volunteer stewardship project of our chapter that's involved in removing invasive weeds that threaten the ecological health of the American River Parkway. This project is a collaborative effort with numerous partners in the Sacramento region that include the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, Recreation and Open Space (County Parks) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA). The Mather Vernal Pool Preservation Project seeks to encourage and ensure vernal pool preservation at Mather Field and other threatened vernal pool habitats in our area. Chapter volunteers regularly assist with the public vernal pool tours and activities at Mather Field in cooperation with the Sacramento Splash Education Center. The main goal of our California Native Plant Demonstration Garden, in the Sacramento Historic Cemetery is to enlighten visitors to the beauty of California native plants and to inspire them to incorporate native plants into their own home gardens. Other garden goals include educating the public about California rare and endangered plants and animals, as well as the water conservation benefits of landscaping with native plants.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER: THE BRADLEY METHOD, EFFECTIVE HUMAN-SCALE HABITAT RESTORATION

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The San Diego Chapter of CNPS has experienced considerable success using a cost effective restoration method to restore open spaces to native plant habitat. This was achieved with small numbers of dedicated, well trained volunteers using the Bradley Method and integrated weed control techniques. The

Bradley principles promote the spread of existing native vegetation by reducing competition from invasive species. This avoids the expense and effort associated with planting and irrigation. It also avoids potential gene pollution associated with introduction of plants from outside areas. Since 2004 more than six hundred acres have been restored to native habitat using these techniques. This has been accomplished with a \$500 annual budget and with a like amount in contributions using small teams of two to six people per site. Our success continues in spite of a widespread burn in 2007 and encompasses many parcels throughout San Diego County.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER: SUPPORTING COMMUNITY HABITAT PROGRAMS IN SAN DIEGO

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San Diego is a city of mesas etched by canyons. Canyons traverse all of the city's neighborhoods and many of them escaped development due to the difficult topography. These undeveloped canyons harbor islands of good quality native plant habitat interspersed with patchy disturbed areas. Collectively they form a mosaic of open-space that is a substantial component of the San Diego Habitat Preserve established in the mid-1990s. Volunteer-led Friends' groups are prime stewards of their neighborhood canyons. In collaboration with city rangers, Friends' groups recruit volunteers and carry out projects to improve native habitats within the Preserve. CNPS-San Diego supports these efforts by providing expertise to identify appropriate plant species and sources of native stock for restoration the sites, education in planting techniques and weed control, financial support to partner organizations (e.g., San Diego Canyonlands and Ocean Discovery Institute) and the Plant Atlas program at the San Diego Natural History Museum. The results of this partnership for two successful volunteer-led projects to re-establish coastal sage scrub/ chaparral vegetation on formerly weed-covered sites in Switzer Canyon will be presented.

SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAPTER: CONSERVATION EDUCATION

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In keeping with Baba Diuom's famous statement: "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We love only what we understand. We understand only what we are taught." The San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS believes that the best route to successful plant conservation is through public education. For our chapter this includes the production and publication of low cost flower identification books, active participation in school conservation and gardening projects and thoughtful engagement and dialog with a variety of State and Federal resource agencies to assert the CNPS mission.

SANTA CLARA CHAPTER: GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

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The Santa Clara Chapter of CNPS has been participating in the Going Native Garden Tour Project since 2003 with great success! The tour is supported by public resource agencies, native plant nurseries and other conservation organizations. Its purpose is to promote the use of natives in home gardens and landscapes and to educate the public about native plants in general. Each year a volunteer committee selects gardens for the tour. The criteria for selection include: predominantly composed of native plants, well-designed, well-maintained, minimal watering requirements and low to no use of pesticides. Once selected there are several meetings to orient the owners to the tours and the owners label the plants in

their gardens for educational purposes. The tours are lead by chapter docents and other volunteers. The response to this project is tremendous and many people participate.

SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER: SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS

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The Santa Cruz Chapter of CNPS has a large group of dedicated volunteers that do excellent work to promote conservation of California's vast native plant diversity within their natural habitats. These efforts have been achieved by our chapter in a variety of ways including: collaboration with federal, state, public and private agencies, conservation advocacy, education through public forums, field trips and classes, the habitat restoration team, herbarium work parties, native plant sales, participation in Weed Management Area development for the County, the Patrick Elvander Scholarship, the Right-Plant Program, propagation work parties, publication of an annotated checklist of the Santa Cruz County Flora and ongoing management of the Randy Morgan Preserve.

SOUTH COAST CHAPTER: SAVE LOWER POINT VICENTE

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Rancho Palos Verdes is a city located on the coast directly South of Los Angeles. It has a 1,600-acre Nature Preserve. Aside from the Preserve, most of the city is developed. Point Vicente is a prominence on the Palos Verdes Peninsula with a Coast Guard Base and a lighthouse. A 15,000 square foot interpretive center on a 26 Acre bluff top site is adjacent to the Base. The area is a former military base. It was deeded to the city as an area for "Passive Outdoor Recreation." Some of the land had been used for farming and is in a "deteriorated state" with exotic species growing as weeds. The Annenberg Foundation wanted to build a 51,000 square foot "Companion Animal" center along with paving for parking. Many local residents were concerned that this building was not appropriate for this site because it was too large and not consistent with the conditions of use set forth in the deed. A dedicated group of citizens (including several South Coast CNPS Chapter members) worked to stop the project from going forward. South Coast Chapter funded design for an alternative plan that would eliminate the proposed building and preserve this beautiful ocean front, bluff top site. This plan includes extensive use of native plants for restoration. Thanks to the devoted efforts of the citizen group, the developer subsequently withdrew its application to build. The new challenge is to refine the plan, build community support, and find funding to restore the habitat and install appropriate park features.

WILLIS LINN JEPSON CHAPTER: SURE, LET'S BUILD A NATIVE PLANT BOTANIC GARDEN!

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The Forrest Deaner Native Plant Botanic Garden is one of the Willis Linn Jepson Chapter's projects and demonstrates the diversity of California's native plants. Forrest Deaner, the founding President of the Chapter, dreamed up the idea of establishing a native plant garden as a Chapter project. He secured a site and organized members to develop plans and seek funds. The cornerstone was laid in November 2000, and the first phase was opened to the public in November 2004. Forrest, until his death in 2002, and then Norma Deaner (his wife) and Gary Brogan managed the project. Maintenance and improvements to the 3.5 acre Garden are on-going. The Garden is located within the Benicia State Recreation Area along the north shore of the Carquinez Strait off Interstate 780, making it easily accessible to the public. The Garden has a collection of over 3,000 native trees, shrubs, perennials and bunch grasses representing more than 300 species. It showcases plants native to five plant communities found in Solano County:

Valley Grassland, Coastal Prairie, Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral, and the Foothill Woodland. It also includes demonstration gardens organized by themes: residential landscape, wildflower meadow, sensory, Native American and hummingbird/butterfly. Visitors are educated on the value of native plants through a series of interpretive panels that describe the plants, their functions and uses. Our Chapter sponsors workdays, field trips and events at the garden to foster an understanding and appreciation of California's native flora. Every visit inspires and motivates.