

**Dunes, Wetlands, and Coastal Scrub Volcanoes: An
Introduction to the Plants and Habitats
of San Quintin, Baja California**
Sula Vanderplank and Jon Rebman
March 1-5, 2010



Encelia californica blooms at the base of Mount Kenton in February of 2008.
Photo© Alan Harper.

Course Description: Three days of field trips out of San Quintin, interspersed with lectures, with a day of travel between San Diego and San Quintin, on each side of the workshop. Bus travel will be arranged between San Diego and San Quintin and is included in the price. The workshop price includes 4 nights in hotels but does not include meals. Passports are required now for travel to Baja.

Cost CNPS members: \$720 includes hotel lodging for 4 nights (meals not included)

Non-members: \$745 includes hotel lodging for 4 nights (meals not included)

LOCATION: San Quintin, Baja California

TARGET AUDIENCE: Professional and amateur biologists, botanists, enthusiasts, and photographers. All welcome, no experience necessary. Participants should be physically able to spend full days in the field hiking from site to site, in variable weather conditions (e.g. it may be windy or hot). Although we will be hiking not more than 5 miles in any given day, this may include quite difficult terrain (e.g. soft sand or coarse, loose volcanic rock).

For online registration go to <http://cnps.org/cnps/education/workshops/index.php>

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ATTENDEES WILL:

- Become familiar with a significant component of the San Quintin flora (including salt marsh assemblages, the dune flora and the succulent matorral)
- Observe how differences in the terrain offer strikingly different habitat types within a small geographic area
- Obtain training in the ID of the many different cacti and succulents that are characteristic of the flora in this region.
- Learn about conservation processes and cultural practices that impact plant conservation and sustainability
- Receive a brief introduction to the natural history of the Baja California peninsula
- Receive field instruction on how to collect herbarium specimens and how to gather ample seed bank accessions for long-term storage.



The barrier beach on the Pacific side of San Quintín, with *Astragalus trichopodus* in the foreground. Photo © Alan Harper.

INSTRUCTORS:

Sula Vanderplank is the Administrative Curator of the Herbarium at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, and is currently a student at Claremont Graduate University where she studies the Flora of San Quintín. She has taken more than 20 trips to this area during the course of her research and works in collaboration with various researchers and conservation agencies in Baja California. Sula has a Botany degree from the University of Reading (UK), and a diploma in Conservation Strategies and Solutions for Latin America from the Technical Institute of Monterrey.

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Jon P. Rebman, Ph.D. is the Mary and Dallas Clark Endowed Chair/Curator of Botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum since 1996. Dr. Rebman is a plant taxonomist and conducts extensive floristic research in Baja California and in San Diego and Imperial Counties. His primary research interests have centered on the systematics of the Cactus family in Baja California, especially the genera *Cylindropuntia* (chollas) and *Opuntia* (prickly-pears). Recently, he published a new edition of the *Checklist of the Vascular Plants of San Diego County* and is working on a new specimen-based checklist for the plants of Baja California.

PROPOSED AGENDA: (subject to change with weather and conditions)

Monday, March 1

*Time spent crossing the border and at military checkpoints is always subject to variability.

9:00 am Arrive at San Diego/Mexico border parking lot. Introductions

Walk across border while our SUV transports our heavy luggage across border

10:00-10:30 Board hired bus in Tijuana to San Quintin

lunch in Ensenada

~5:00 pm Arrive in San Quintin at Jardines Hotel

Tues, March 2

8:00 a.m. Board bus and head north

8:30 a.m. Drive to field sites near Rio Santo Domingo

Noon: board bus to second location (bag lunch in field)

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Continue to Salt ponds

3:00 p.m. Board bus to third location

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Beach

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Sundowner on the beach and dinner

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Slideshow /lecture

Wed, March 3

8:00 a.m. Board bus for the bay

8:30 a.m. Drive to the bay. Salt marshes and the head of peninsula for dunes

Noon: Lunch

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Continue in field, matorral, possible climb cinder cone

5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Return to hotel

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Dinner in town

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Slideshow /lecture

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Thurs, March 4

8:00 a.m. Board bus and head south to El Socorr

8:30 a.m. Drive to El Socorro dunes

Noon: Lunch –**1:00 p.m.** - **5:00 p.m.** Continue to El Socorro Plateau

5:00 p.m. - **5:30 p.m.** Return to hotel

5:30 p.m. - **7:00 p.m.** Dinner in town

7:00 p.m. - **9:00 p.m.** Slideshow /lecture and drinks ☺

Fri, March 5

8:00 am: Board bus for return to San Diego via Tijuana

Lunch in Ensenada

3:00 pm: Arrive in Tijuana, load heavy luggage in SUV

~3:30 pm: Walk across border to border parking lot

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Equipment list, Materials and Resources Provided, Location:

Please bring the following:

- ***Passport***
- Hand lens
- Notebook and pencils
- Day pack
- Hiking boots and clothing appropriate for the weather and conditions
- Water bottles, sunscreen, sunglasses for field
- Snacks for field

Please bring the following items, if you have access to them:

- Floras and field guides

MATERIALS AND RESOURCES PROVIDED:

- A preliminary species checklist for the region
- Handouts on dominant species at field sites

LOCATIONS AND FACILITIES:

<http://www.hotel-jardinesbaja.com/>

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