



Bulletin

Rare Carbonate Plants Given a Fighting Chance

Over the past four years CNPS has been a lead player in a cooperative stakeholder- and science-based plan to protect endangered carbonate plants in the San Bernardino Mountains. All indicators are that the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy (CHMS) will be a model of what can be achieved when conservationists, businesses, and government agencies sit (and sit, and sit...) at the table and work in good faith to solve difficult problems.

RARE HABITAT AND A VALUABLE COMMODITY

On the north and east sides of the San Bernardino Mountains, geological processes have lifted the remains of ancient coral reefs—now limestone and dolomite—and distributed them across the landscape in twenty mile by two mile east-west trending ribbons. Because these carbonate soils are isolated, a suite of unique plant species have evolved here. These species occur nowhere else on earth; they are a unique part of California's natural heritage.

Carbonate soils are extremely desirable for human uses. They are used to build roads and homes, to whiten things, and in a plethora of pharmaceuticals. The same soils that are the substrate for the evolution of rare plants are also highly prized for their economic value. Therefore, most of the carbonate soils are covered by mining claims.

In 1994 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as a result of a CNPS lawsuit, put five of the carbonate endemics under the protection of the Federal Endangered Species Act. The Cushenbury buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium* var. *vineum*), Cushenbury milkvetch (*Astragalus albens*), Cushenbury oxytheca (*Oxytheca parishii* var. *goodmaniana*) and San Bernardino Mountains bladderpod (*Lesquerella kingii* var. *bernardina*) were listed



The Cushenbury buckwheat (Eriogonum ovalifolium var. vineum) is one of five San Bernardino Mountain carbonate endemics under the protection of the Federal Endangered Species Act as a result of CNPS's efforts. Photo: Scott Eliason

as Endangered. Parish's daisy (*Erigeron parishii*) was listed as threatened. The FWS found that these plants' existence was threatened by mining. However, as the mines expanded conservation set-asides were piecemeal and non-contiguous.

THE BEGINNINGS OF A PLAN ...

Because of these plant's legal endangered status, in October 1999 the San Bernardino National Forest started a series of meetings on conservation and recovery for the carbonate endemics and invited CNPS to participate. Another agency with jurisdiction over carbonate habitat—the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)—had just begun a similar planning effort: the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan. Both agencies were grappling with how to allow “take” (elimination of the plants) and

continued on page 6

Upper Newport Bay Flora By Canoe

Upper Newport Bay is a 752-acre estuary (plus 140 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat) located in Orange County. It is a vital floral sanctuary just a lattes lob from suburbia in all directions. A checklist of flora by Bob Muns names 195 indigenous plants in the reserve. An additional 180 taxa have joined the party (that's 48% introduced species).

What is interesting is that the salt marsh doesn't have any weeds. It seems the twice-daily tidal inundations are effectively hostile toward invasion. Twenty-plus species inhabit the salt marsh system, dominated by its one species of cord grass, *Spartina foliosa*, a poa. The salt marsh plants don't

“It is said the marsh is four times as productive as a corn field ...”

need salt, they'll grow their tails off in the freshest of water holes. But, they can't outcompete the vigor of staple freshwater plants, so they take refuge in the salt.

We gathered on a Sunday morning in June to canoe up and down the bay. While our focus would be on the abundant vegetation of the salt marsh, we couldn't resist taking in the place as a whole. With millions of liters of water being acted upon by celestial forces, 15-million-year-old diatomaceous ocean sediment cliffs eased up 100 feet by geologic forces, and wildlife that is extremely visible, Upper Newport Bay is inextricably all of these things at once—a whole.

continued on page 6

A Note from the Executive Director

The joys of a rainy winter in California—snow highlighting mountain ridges, vernal pools brimming, fog lapping the hills and valleys. Like gardeners everywhere, staff and volunteers are using the short, wet days of winter to do annual planning and budgeting for the seasons ahead.

In addition to planning for 2004 we are working on a very special event in 2005—the 40th Anniversary of CNPS’s founding in 1965. We’ve accomplished an amazing amount since 1965 and we’re hoping to have some wonderful celebrations. Several Northern California chapters have offered to serve as hosts for this event.

The winter holidays are also a time to give gifts to those you care about. If the response to our first ever *Major Donor Campaign* and the annual *Fall Appeal* are an indication, then members of CNPS certainly care deeply about the work we do. Combined, the contributions and pledges to these two appeals has been a new record—more than \$90,000. This swell of support is truly heartening to CNPS staffers and volunteers. With this support in hand, we’re looking forward to advancing the appreciation

and protection of California’s amazing natural heritage in 2004.

The fires in San Diego County claimed the homes of several CNPS members. Callie Mack of the San Diego Chapter offers a suggestion of how we can help:

“Several members of San Diego’s environmental community (including CNPS members) lost their homes, businesses and reference libraries to the fires that recently burned a large portion of San Diego County’s backcountry. The San Diego chapter is collecting donations of books (focusing on botany and other natural history reference books) and other items for these fire victims. Dale Clark of the San Diego chapter has put together a page on the San Diego chapter’s website which shows both the donated books and items, and the “wish lists” of those who are rebuilding their lives and their libraries. The web address is: www.cnpsd.org/fire/donations.html. My husband and I discovered we had two copies of the same desert wildflowers book on our shelves, along with multiple copies of various bird guides. Perhaps you, too, have some reference books

languishing on your shelves. If you have books, tools or other items which you would like to donate, please email me at callie@sdccu.net, or call me at (619) 698-9512. I will send your list of donations to Dale Clark for addition to the web page. (Your name will not be used, unless you prefer to have it listed.) I know that together we can help to “re-sprout” some of our fellow nature lovers’ lost libraries.”

Finally, I’d like to acknowledge two new volunteer program coordinators. In the Conservation Program, Jen Kalt will be serving as Forestry Program Coordinator, replacing Greg Jirak, long-time volunteer and board member.

Greg will assist Jen in stepping up to this important position.

Thanks to both Greg and Jen for their fine work on forestry issues. In the Education Program, Jim Shevock has agreed to take over the Educational Research Grants program. Since I was the volunteer coordinator for that program, I appreciate Jim’s enthusiasm and research experience. Thanks Jim. 🌱

Pam Muick, Executive Director,
pamuick@cnps.org



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, CA 95816-5113

Phone 916-447-2677 🌱 Fax 916-447-2727

E-mail cnps@cnps.org 🌱 Visit www.CNPS.org

Send articles to mtomlinson@cnps.org

Pamela C. Muick, Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2004

Carol Witham, President
Sandy McCoy, Vice President
Carol Baird, Secretary
Steve Hartman, Treasurer

Jim Bishop, Vern Goehring, Diana Hickson,
Lynn Houser, Lynne Kada, David Magney,
J. Spence McIntyre, Mary Shaw

CHAPTER COUNCIL

Lynne Kada, Chair, Jim Bishop, Vice Chair
Joan Stewart, Secretary

BULLETIN

Michael Tomlinson, Editor
Lisa Roth, Design and Production

Fire is on the Conservation Director’s Mind

In the fall of 2003 the world watched as hundreds of homes were consumed by fire, including those of several CNPS members. With the winds gusting at over 50 mph, fire crews could not stem the flames’ advance. Now everybody wants to reassess land management at the wildland-urban interface, with some mixed potential outcomes. CNPS is working on a Policy on Brush Management that will address management of brush for both a sustained ecological benefit and for public safety. One goal is to avoid any unreasonable attack on the chaparral ecosystem. No doubt, in this new policy we will encourage people to use the fire code sensibly, removing sufficient fuel to lower radiant heat and direct flame exposure to the point where a house can be defended effectively, while leaving as much green native vegetation in place as possible.

CNPS does have influence on post fire rehabilitation. For years we have presented scientific information that aerial sowing of rye grass damaged the plant community by repressing the recruitment of shrubs, while doing very little to prevent soil erosion. In fact the repression of the shrubs may result in later increases in debris flows. We are happy to say that the agencies have listened, and that aerial application is not taking place. For this the chaparral and all of its dependent species thank the powers that be. Kudos to all in CNPS who have worked on this issue over the years. 🌱

—David Chipping, Conservation Director, dchippin@calpoly.edu

Invasive Plants Threaten Native Flora

It is becoming increasingly difficult to go anywhere in California without being unpleasantly reminded that saving our native biological communities is not as simple as buying land for its plants and habitat. Invasive non-native plants such as scotch broom, fennel, and pampas grass are common on public and private land in even the most remote parts of the state. Unlike native species, invasives are vulnerable to few native insects, fungi, or diseases that would otherwise control their growth and spread.

Invasive plants are frequently cited as second only to development in destroying our native flora, but there is no way of measuring which is most destructive. I suspect that weeds have long since replaced development for the dubious honor. To dramatically illustrate the changes in the California landscape in a very short time, see the April 2003 *Fremontia* for a look back 100–150 years in Marjorie Schmidt's *Through Other Eyes*.

On the local level, many CNPS chapters have active weed-pulling and restoration activities. Besides directly benefiting the land, these efforts are enjoyable, educational, and community-building. There is no better way to learn the local flora, the character and the particular strategies employed by aggressive weeds, and to learn the power of nature from this hands-on activity. Those who volunteer as stewards find it a deeply satisfying activity.

A stellar example of success in holding back invasives is provided by our Santa Clara Valley Chapter. They labored for nearly 25 years to protect the spectacular wildflower displays of Edgewood County Park from development as a golf course. Having accomplished that, the

Chapter has set to work to save it from aggressive weeds like yellow starthistle, teasel, and weedy grasses. Chapter members volunteer thousands of hours yearly (2213 hours in 2003!), and they enjoy it—although it is a daunting

task, and they can always use more help.

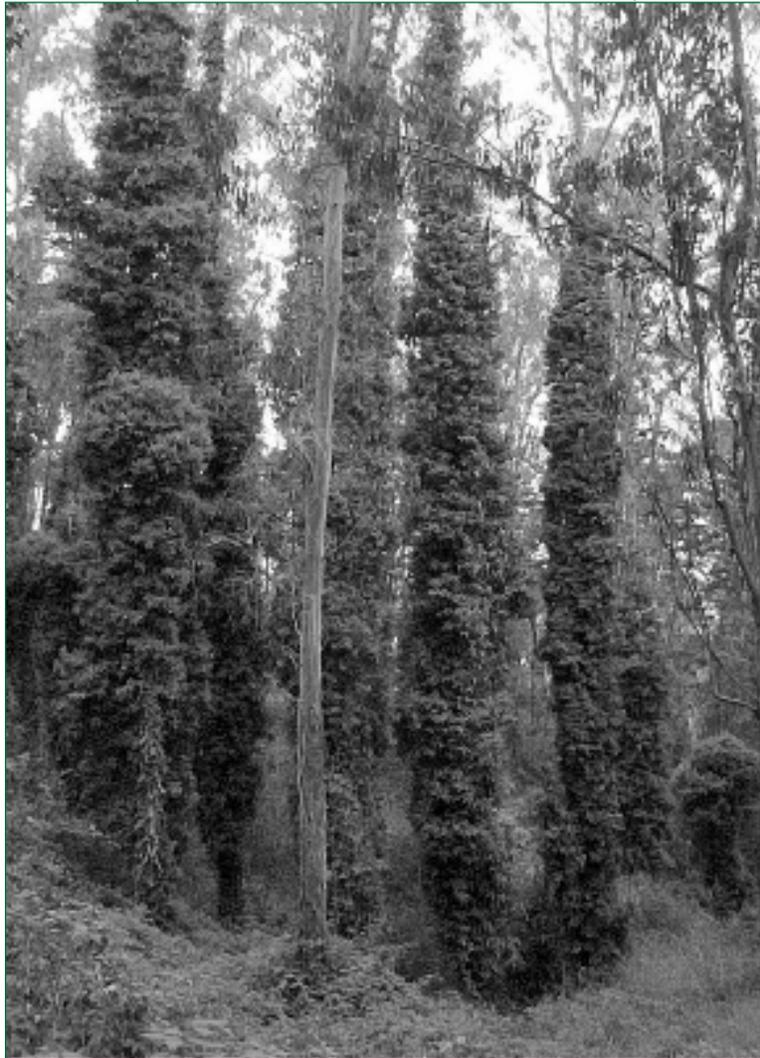
CNPS also works at the state and national level to effect weed legislation, policies, and programs. We work cooperatively with other entities: federal and state agencies and other

organizations/interests with common problems—such as farmers, ranchers, and rural counties. An early success was in 1992 when CNPS got the California Legislature to enact AB 1108, which put wildland weeds on a par with agricultural and silvicultural weeds. Ensuing from this, the state recently made its first listing of 11 wildland weeds as Noxious Weeds. In 2000, our support was crucial for the passage of SB 1740, which provided \$5 million for Weed Management Areas (WMAs). Nearly every county in the state now has a WMA, which are cooperative arrangements between all landowners—public and private—and interested citizens. CNPS chapters are party to many of these WMAs.

Perhaps the most prominent body addressing wildland weeds is the organization whose mission is solely that: the California Invasive Plant Council. CNPS works closely with Cal-IPC (as it is known for short), and together we have testified before the California Legislature as well as Congress to inform our legislators on weed issues.

SEE YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER OR WEBSITE FOR LISTINGS OF VOLUNTEER WEED PULLING AND RESTORATION PROJECTS IN YOUR AREA.

Jake Sigg, Chair, Invasive Exotics Committee, jakesigg@earthblink.net



This scene on Mt. Davidson in San Francisco shows how invasive plants can transform an environment. 100 years ago the area was a grassland with carpets of colorful spring and summer wildflowers. Civic leaders decided to improve on nature by planting eucalyptus trees. The trees changed the environment—year-round fog drip and protection from sun and wind—creating conditions ideal for destructive plants such as English ivy, which eliminated the original plant community. Ironically, the trees themselves will no longer be able to regenerate in these conditions. Photo: Margo Bors

NEWS BRIEFS

FREMONTIA ON THE INTERNET

Have you ever read a *Fremontia* article that you wanted to share with a friend, perhaps as a way to inspire them to join CNPS? From Volume 29 (2001) to present, *Fremontia* issues are now posted to the CNPS website as PDF documents. If you are Internet users, you can simply direct your friend to www.cnps.org/publications/publications.htm and tell them the issue of *Fremontia* and pages to look at. Or, print out the pages of interest to give them. Each issue is posted within one month of its distribution through the mail. Make sure to look at Volume 31 No.3 (the bryophyte issue) which will be posted to the web in color. Direct your gardening friends to Volume 29 No. 1, the issue dedicated to growing native plants. If you don't use computers, your chapter may have previously read copies of

Fremontia that are looking for a new home. It's easy to build our network of native plant lovers by spreading information!

Linda Ann Vorobik,
Fremontia Editor,
vorobik@rockisland.com

32ND ANNUAL SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER WILDFLOWER SHOW

The region's premier botanical/horticultural event showcases the diversity and beauty of the wildflowers of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. Displays feature over 400 species of wildflowers and native plants, each accurately labeled, many suitable for the home garden. On sale: books, posters, note cards, and wildflower-related items. April 24 & 25, 2004, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mission College, Hospitality Management Building,

3000 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara. Free parking. More information at (650) 941-1068, email gstigall@aol.com, or www.cnps-scw.org.

SPRING WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL A Day of Celebration in Sonoma County

The Milo Baker Chapter is pleased to announce the Spring Wildflower Festival—A Day of Celebration on May 8, 2004, Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts (Hwy 101 & River Road, Santa Rosa). The Festival has something for everyone:

- A huge native plant sale by local nurseries with a wide selection of native plants for sale, along with garden advice.

- Free seminars by local experts on native plant gardening, wise water use, identifying wildflowers, native plant baskets, butterflies, photographing wildflowers and nature, *Native in My Backyard* film, and more.

- A Wildflower Art Show and Auction for you to view and buy the best of local wildflower fine art, photographs, and more by silent auction.

- Booths, exhibits, and a marketplace of artisans, nature and garden-related groups, water use wisdom, books, posters, and a continuous slide show of Sonoma County wildflowers.

- Kid-friendly booths and fun activities.

The public is welcome. The \$5.00 admission fee, payable at the gate, includes parking. Refreshments are available on site from the Burbank Bistro. For more information visit www.cnpsmb.org



SO CAL REGIONAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The attendees of the So Cal Conservation committee meeting at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (home of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter) in November 2003 were able to generate momentum and share strategies on conservation issues such as after-fire seeding and poorly-planned development. Areas of focus included the Algodones Dunes, Dana Point Headlands, Palos Verdes Peninsula, Newhall Ranch, and the Mojave Desert. Back row, l to r: David Chipping, SLO & State Conservation Dir.; Dave Magney, Channel Islands; Dave Fleitner, San Diego; Rick Fisher, San Gabriel; Pam Muick, Staff. Middle row: Barbara Sattler, South Coast; Cindy Burrascano, San Diego; Alison Shilling, Riverside/San Bernardino; Beksey Landis, LA/SMM; Daniel Pritchett, Bristlecone; Tim Thomas, Mojave. Front Row: Steve Hartman, LA/SMM; Celia Kutcher, Orange; Ilene Anderson, Staff; David Sundstrom, South Coast. Photo: Steve Hartman

GIVE YOUR CAR TO CNPS!

CNPS is able to accept donations of cars and other vehicles. All you need to do is call the State office (916-447-2677) with the vehicles' vital statistics and where it is located. We ask only that vehicles be late model vehicles in reasonably good condition. 🌱

CNPS Moves to Protect Serpentine Plants in Central Coast

Threat is ORV Use in Closed Areas of Clear Creek Management Area

On December 5, 2003 the CNPS Board of Directors approved a plan to prepare a Notice of Intent to sue several federal agencies regarding insufficient enforcement of existing laws in the management of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) near Hollister. The Notice will start a 60-day waiting period after which CNPS, with our partners at the Center for Biological Diversity, may choose to file a lawsuit. However, recent positive actions by BLM make us very hopeful that we can avoid litigation.

The Monterey Bay and Channel Islands chapters have been concerned about the suite of rare serpentine endemic plants—including the federally listed San Benito Evening Primrose—in the Clear Creek Management Area for more than a decade. The area is heavily used by off road vehicles (ORVs). Soil disturbance, dust and sedimentation associated with ORV use damages habitat for the plants, as well as potentially compromising local water supplies and air quality.

In September 2003 CNPS Executive Director Pam Muick, Brian LeNeve from the Monterey Chapter, and I met with BLM California Director Mike Pool and other representatives from BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to discuss the Clear Creek problems. As a result of that meeting, botanists and ORV specialists from the BLM state office have visited key habitat and constructed new fencing to protect one sensitive area.

This year's ORV season opened at the end of October. Within two weeks illegal ORV use in the Clear Creek Management Area had already violated limits set by a 1997 FWS biological opinion. BLM immediately warned ORV users to stay out of all sensitive areas. If BLM continues to take effective action to protect plants and their habitats at the CCMA, litigation will be unnecessary. CNPS will meet again soon with BLM and FWS officials to discuss next steps and review progress. 🌱

*Emily Roberson, Senior Policy Analyst,
emilyr@cnps.org*

Jennifer Kalt New CNPS Forestry Issues Program Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Kalt as the new volunteer CNPS Forestry Issues Program Coordinator! Jennifer is responsible for coordinating

berlands. The program has since expanded to include national forest issues, oak woodland conversions, and forestry herbicide use. We continue to monitor private timberland issues with



The pansy monkeyflower (Mimulus pulchellus) occurs in an area proposed for herbicide spraying to eliminate native shrubs that compete with commercial timber trees in the Stanislaus National Forest. Photo: © 2001 Steve Schoenig

forestry-related CNPS activities throughout the state. Jennifer began monitoring forestry issues for the North Coast Chapter in 1999. She is also the Resource Protection Associate for the California Indian Basketweavers Association where she works to protect native plants from herbicides and promote traditional burning practices.

The Forestry Issues Program was created in 2001 by North Coast and Dorothy King Young Chapter members concerned about the inadequate protection of rare plants on private tim-

berland, where the Dept. of Fish & Game has recently eliminated timber harvest review. Jen takes the reins from long-time volunteer Greg Jirak who is devoting more time to the Redwood Forest Foundation.

If you have forestry-related issues in your region, need assistance with a particular issue, or would like to volunteer, please contact Jen: jkalt@asis.com. For more information on the Forestry Issues Program see www.cnps.org/forestry/. 🌱

Algodones Dunes Update

ORV DAMAGE CONTINUES

Thanksgiving weekend is the start of the off-road vehicle (ORV) season at the Algodones Dunes. Over 158,000 people descended on the dunes over the weekend in 2003. With only 116 law enforcement personnel, all of the conservation areas to protect the Peirson's milkvetch were impacted by ORVs. The Bureau of Land Management reports the mayhem over the weekend resulted in 1,279 citations, 64 arrests, 142 medical responses, 1 human fatality and 10 fires. Monitoring for the Peirson's milkvetch is scheduled for spring, so the effective damage is not yet known. Despite increased ORV activity, cool winter months are an excellent time to enjoy the Algodones dunes. 🌱

Fighting Chance continued from page 1

how to conserve them. As a CNPS representative, little did I realize that I would be committing to 3+ years of meetings and drafting and reviewing multiple drafts!

on the best available science. Fortunately for the plants there was an unusually large amount of data—inventories, genetic analysis, and years of monitoring data.

lined permit from FWS...or they don't have to use it. It creates a reserve design that is larger and less fragmented than the Critical Habitat. Presumably the reserve design will be incorporated into the San Bernardino's Forest Plan Update and the West Mojave Habitat Conservation Plan. The MOU will require claim relinquishment and private lands potentially coming back into public ownership. It has an effective mitigation ratio of 8:1 (conserved/developed land). In the long-term it requires a lot of federal appropriations, but with all sides agreeing to the strategy we present a united front to the legislature and might just get the funds! 🌱

See the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy at
<http://homepage.mac.com/tolson59/Landix/>

The early meetings were classic public/agency meetings ... lots of posturing, grandstanding, table banging and threats. What's new in public land management! Well, in this case it is persistence—we kept meeting—and the desire on all sides of the table being to craft a solution...not just stonewall the process. The group included reps from four big mining companies, the Forest Service, BLM, FWS, San Bernardino County, a few claim-holders, a legal scribe, a facilitator and me.

Some of the mining interests showed a couple of cards—they'd be willing to relinquish 2% of their claims. We showed ours—an outline of a conservation area and recommendations for recovery. The question remained: how much habitat would the FWS require be set aside? FWS won't tell you what you need to do, they'll just judge if what you propose "jeopardizes" the species.

Ultimately, CNPS decided to make FWS tell the world what habitat was critical to the plants. In December 1999, CNPS sued the FWS to designate Critical Habitat, a designation under the Endangered Species Act that identifies land crucial for species survival. However, the final Critical Habitat designation issued in January 2002 failed to incorporate common tenets of conservation biology (large reserves are better than small ones, i.e. better edge-to-area ratios) and did not utilize the best available science. It wouldn't do.

SO BACK AT THE TABLE ...

The carbonate working group continued to meet. Finally, a year and half later we hammered out the Carbonate Habitat Management Strategy. CNPS made sure the strategy was based

The CHMS was codified by a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by all parties in June 2003. It is a voluntary agreement, the miners can participate in it to achieve a stream-

Ileene Anderson, Southern California Botanist, ieanderson@earthblink.net

Back Bay Canoe Trip continued from page 1

Before taking to the boats, we walked a path into the marsh to observe the resident endangered species, *Cordylanthus maritimus* (salt marsh bird's beak). It seems the big problem for California's endangered *Cordylanthus* species is that they haven't enough estuaries. The plant is four inches of flower, resembling a cream-colored Indian paintbrush. It is partially parasitic, seemingly on *Distich-*



Outing participants put some muscle into paddling toward a bank of cordgrass where they will observe indigenous salt marsh plants. Above the tidal zone invasive species begin to predominate. Photo: Joan Hampton

lis spicata (salt grass), taking advantage of the poa's high productivity and extensive root system.

Upper Newport Bay has been a functioning estuary since an ancient river carved this coastal canyon 300,000 years ago. Not long after the last ice age, as the ocean began to rise, brackish marsh flowed inland and a fresh marsh system expanded into the Tustin plains. There were people thriving here at that time, floating high on the waters in canoes of tule (*Scripus* spp.).

Paddling from the dock at low tide, we head our canoes for a two-car garage-size portion of the

continued on page 7

Canoe Trip from page 6

white bluff that has recently fallen. High on the bluffs are masses of *Encelia californica*, looking brittle, as it gets this time of year. *Dudleya lanceolata* (lanceleaf liveforever) silhouetted above; *Salicornia subterminalis* (pickleweed), and *Suaeda californica* keep just over the high water mark. Following the main channel, we are flanked on both sides by mud and cordgrass. We edge up on a three-foot wall of cordgrass sod, draining its water load. We can see the countless worm holes in the rich black mud and bluish painted crabs reflecting the morning sun. It is said the marsh is four times as productive as a corn field, but this is definitely a detritivore's economy. We also see all the *Batis maritima*, *Jaumea carnosa*, *Limonium* (sea lavender), *Frankenia salina*, and *Salicornias* (pickleweed) that live inconspicuously amongst the *Spartina*. Hover flies hover, black birds, sparrows, and swallows gossip and fuss.

Paddling further, on our right is Big Canyon, a "freshwater" (turf irrigation) riparian system. Some trees of Orange County are quite visible: *Fremontia*, *Populus*, *Platanus*, *Alnus*, and *Salix* species. A terrific birding spot, if that's your thing. We check out a little gas vent boiling up, indicative of the 100 feet of historic marsh buried below.

The bluffs straighten out and become lined with houses. *Carpobrotus* (iceplant) sprawls a green blanket from top down; bougainvillea, pampas grass, Algerian ivy, Brazilian pepper, all creep down from their yards, but the closer to the water the bluffs get, the more the natives hold their alkali ground. And so we begin the two-hour paddle back to dry dock, against the tide, against the wind, against fatigue and canoe-butt. But that's how it goes; you can only ride the tide one way. We rode it out.

On the island again, the hardcore CNPSers explore a salt marsh restoration area. Since we couldn't go home without the Jepson Manual being pulled out, the botanists among us keyed out two *Camissonia* species. This is the difference between a CNPS trip and any other! 🌿

—Todd Heinsma, OC Chapter Outreach & Volunteer Coordinator

Outgoing Board President Sue Britting Honored

Sue Britting, CNPS's outgoing Board President is presented the CNPS Outstanding Volunteer Award by Sandy McCoy, Board Vice President, at the December 2003 Chapter Council meeting in Berkeley. All present rose in



a standing ovation when the award was announced. The CNPS State Board also honored Britting with a plaque featuring a photograph of a Sierra meadow. The inscription on the plaque reads: "Susan Britting, Director 1994-1999, Board President 1999-2003 California Native Plant Society. Presented by the Board of Directors December 5, 2003 in recognition of her devotion, strength, patience, vision, intelligence, and extraordinary leadership through a time of major change." Photo: Michael Tomlinson

A Call for Candidates! New CNPS State Election Timing

CNPS elections for State Board and Chapter Council positions will be held simultaneously over the summer of 2004. In the past the Chapter Council elections were held in the spring and Board elections during the summer. The Chapter Council decided to hold both elections together to streamline processes.

One of the major tasks of the Leadership Development Committee is to recruit candidates for Board and Chapter Council positions.

Service on the State Board or Chapter Council is an extremely important and rewarding way to work for conservation in California. The State Board in particular needs members with skills and contacts in fundraising, public relations, media, foundations, and organizational development. The Board would also like to increase the diversity of its membership with more people under 40 and more people with minority backgrounds.

Any CNPS member may run for State Board or Chapter Council positions, although candidates for Chapter Council positions must be nominated by a CNPS chapter. The deadline for nominations is June 15, 2004. Run for office and be a CNPS hero!

Sandy McCoy,
Leadership Development Committee,
SandyMcCoy@mindspring.com

So Cal Landscape Architects Recognize CNPS with Award



At the December 4, 2003, awards banquet of the American Society of Landscape Architects/Southern California 200 guests applauded as CNPS received the ASLA/SC Public Stewardship award for our efforts to educate the public about the values of native plants in landscaping in Southern California. Board member Betsey Landis represented CNPS at the banquet and two days later presented the award to Executive Director Pam Muick at the Chapter Council meeting. Congratulations to the southern California CNPS Chapters! Photo: Michael Tomlinson 🌿

CNPS Chapter Council Meeting

SATURDAY MARCH 6TH IN CLAREMONT

Please plan to attend the CNPS So Cal Chapter Council Meeting and associated activities on March 6th at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont. There will be much valuable information shared, good interactions between chapters, and important discussions and decisions that need your input. An excellent presentation (final speaker selection is underway from a field of candidates) will take place at the close of the meeting on Saturday. All are welcome, not just Delegates, but families, friends and interested members. Contact the state office at 916-447-2677 in the weeks to come for more details. 🌿



NATIVE PLANT CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN (NPCC) GROWING

The NPCC continues to grow and be active. The Arizona and Oklahoma Native Plant Societies are our latest affiliates. The NPCC now represents 30 groups in 29 states with almost 60,000 individual members. Several botanic gardens and native plant societies are considering affiliating. The NPCC continues working to increase funding and staffing for federal botany programs. We also work with federal agencies to support projects such as development of local native plants and revegetation. More than \$10 million has been allocated in recent years for propagation of local native plants for restoration of old roads, trails and construction sites. In the past agencies often used non-natives. The FY 2004 budget includes \$6 million for the BLM and Forest Service to continue work with natives. 🌿

Emily Roberson, Senior Policy Analyst, emilyr@cnps.org

Honoring CNPS Volunteers

Volunteers are the heart and soul of CNPS, annually donating more than 60,000 hours of work to protect and enrich our understanding of California's native plants. At the December 2003 Chapter Council Meeting, Charlie Blair announced the reconstitution of the Volunteer Recognition Committee. The Volunteer Recognition Committee will coordinate recognition of extraordinary CNPS members and make recommendations on nominations to the CNPS State Board. The Committee will recommend honors in three main categories: CNPS Service Awards, Rare Plant Conservation Awards, and Outstanding Volunteer Awards. Nominations will be accepted with a one page- description of the individual's activities. The Committee members are Catie Bishop, Janell Hillman, Halli Mason, Joan Stewart, and Charles Blair, Chair. Nominations can be sent to Charles Blair at blairce@sbceo.org or 176 Alcor Ave. Lompoc, CA 93436.

The CNPS Fellows Committee, which is separate from the Volunteer Recognition, is also being reactivated. The Fellows Committee is limited to making recommendations on nominations for the category of CNPS Fellow. 🌿



The California Native Plant Society is a state-wide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants. Membership is open to all.

2707 K STREET, SUITE 1
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-5113



Bulletin
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
California Native
Plant Society