



# Bulletin

## Coyote Ridge Survey Completed

### Provides vital data for habitat conservation plan

The results of a recently completed multi-year vegetation survey by the CNPS Vegetation Program and the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS are already being put to good use. The survey of the remarkable serpentine plant communities on Coyote Ridge in southern Santa Clara County more than doubled the list of known plants in the area and has generated data that will be vital to the new multispecies habitat conservation plan begun by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan is required because the area has been declared to be Critical Habitat for the Threatened bay checkerspot butterfly.

Coyote Ridge is a solid block of serpentine rocks two miles wide and fifteen miles long. Although it is outside the San Jose urban growth boundary, the ridge lies adjacent to the next available space for urban expansion and cries out for preservation as open space. But how to make the case? Before CNPS survey efforts began in the fall of 2001, relatively few hard scientific data about the area existed, and collecting the additional data needed seemed beyond the scope of chapter volunteer efforts.

However, with the help of the staff of the CNPS Vegetation Program, which provided a data-gathering plan and trained several dozen chapter volunteers, the chapter was able to complete 111 vegetation rapid-assessment and 90 relevé surveys. (Relevé surveys are used to describe new plant communities and herbaceous-dominated communities.) The volunteers surveyed more than 30 different plant associations, including at least 10 new associations for California, such as those involving the Mt. Hamilton thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *campylon*), serpentine grasslands, and shrublands. Addi-



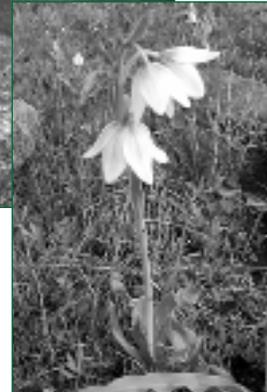
A new population of *Fritillaria liliacea* was found on Coyote Ridge. Photo: Julie Evens

tionally, the surveys provided much more specific information on the ridge, including plant lists, new rare plant sightings, and a map of invasive species.

**Expanded plant database.** All plant species identified during the surveys are now

in a database with geographic coordinates, elevation, slope, aspect, soil characteristics, and other information. Many are shown in a new photo library.

**Documentation of rare plants.** The survey project has substantially increased our knowl-



edge of rare plants on Coyote Ridge. Surveyors discovered a rare plant not previously known from the Hamilton Range, the Loma Prieta hoita (*Hoita strobilina*) and a new population of the state and federal listed

Tiburon Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja affinis* subsp. *neglecta*). Also documented were new populations of Metcalf

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## Species Added to Rare Plant Inventory

### Rare Plant Program to be evaluated and revised

CNPS members now have some additional species to look for on botanizing forays and in survey work. These are the new plants CNPS added to our *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants* List 1B, this spring. Since 1971 the *Inventory*, now in its sixth edition, has served as an authoritative and up-to-date source of information vital to the protection of rare plants. The publication lists plants that are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere and is a significant aspect of the CNPS Rare Plant Program. This spring also marked the beginning of a review of the program to ensure that it keeps pace with developments in conservation biology, laws and regulations, and the science of taxonomy and reflects these in its inventory and other program components.

The plants added to the inventory include *Fritillaria gentneri* (Gentner's fritillary), a species that is listed as Endangered by the federal government. The plant was thought to occur only in Oregon, but Joe Molter, a Bureau of Land Management Botanist and CNPS member, discovered the first California occurrence in Siskiyou County last year. Recently, a second occurrence was found about a mile east of the first one. This perennial herbaceous member of the lily family grows in oak woodland and open chaparral at 1080-1120 meters elevation. Gentner's fritillary is particularly vulnerable to a number of existing and potential threats because its populations are very small. The plant's range overlaps with the superficially similar *F. recurva*. However, *F. gentneri* can be distinguished by a number of floral characters including its dark blood-red petals, which are slightly spreading rather

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## A Note from the Executive Director

### Almost 40, CNPS is still on track

CNPS is approaching a milestone—in 2005 we'll celebrate 40 years of protecting California's native plants and habitats. As I leaf through past newsletters and *Fremontias*, I'm struck by the foresight of CNPS founders, who—from the beginning—recognized the power of combining science, horticulture, education, and political advocacy. Today, we continue in their footsteps—as articles in this issue demonstrate.

The founders also had guts. That's what it took to start CNPS with such a monumental mission—to protect all of California's native plants. Many of our plants *are* glamorous and easy to love—the California poppy, towering oaks, redwoods and pines, spectacular cacti, stunning iris, lilies and orchids. But others, well, they really can only be appreciated by someone who loves all plants.

CNPS has stayed on track and maintained the focus on native plants. We continue to do the unglamorous but important work (to quote two of our members) of creating and deliv-

ering high-quality information that influences public and governmental attitudes that result in changed behavior among individuals, agencies, and governments. The outcome has been increased protection for native plants and habitats.

All CNPS programs have volunteer directors who coordinate and perform the program's work, along with staff and a committee of volunteers. Congratulations are in order to two new program directors—Ann Howald, rare plant program director, and Peigi Duvall, horticulture program director. Ann has been working closely with Misa Ward, interim rare plant botanist, and the Rare Plant Committee to rethink and plan for the future of one of our core programs. Peigi Duvall was appointed in June and is beginning work this summer. We are still seeking a volunteer Education director. Please contact me if you'd like to volunteer or suggest a strong candidate.

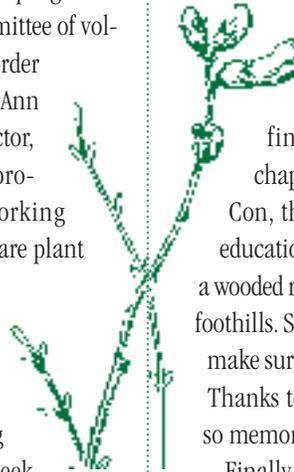
One current challenge is the continuing off-highway vehicle saga in the Clear Creek Management Area in San Benito County. This recre-

ational vehicle area, so designated by the Bureau of Land Management, is home to the San Benito evening primrose and a favored area for off-road vehicle enthusiasts. Although it appears possible that both the riders and the evening primrose could coexist, this is not currently the case. More to come on this matter ...

The June Chapter Council, co-hosted by the Alta Peak and Sequoia Chapters, was a terrific event. Special thanks to Paul Mitchell, Warren and Helen Shaw, and Joan Stewart, who organized the event. CNPS's finest met, dined, and enjoyed the chapter no-host, no-alcohol bar at SciCon, the Tulare County environmental education camp, nestled along Bear Creek, a wooded riparian area, in the southern Sierra foothills. SciCon staff went out of their way to make sure we were well housed and well fed. Thanks to all who made the June meeting so memorable!

Finally, in September the Chapter Council will convene in northern Marin County at the Walker Creek Ranch. The details on this wonderful location are on back cover. I look forward to seeing many of you there! 🌱

—Pamela C. Muick, Ph.D., Executive Director, [pmuick@cnps.org](mailto:pmuick@cnps.org)



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## CNPS Honors Volunteers

CNPS's extraordinary volunteers are the main reason we are one of California's premier societies. The Chapter Council Volunteer Recognition Committee (VRC) took the opportunity to recognize some of those worthies at the June 2004 Chapter Council meeting.

Jeanine DeHart was selected for the VRC Award. Jeanine, a tireless advocate for conservation and a pioneer in native plant landscaping in San Diego County, is the author of *Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants*, and propagated plants for the San Diego Chapter's annual sale.

Joan Stewart, the Board President's Choice winner, received her award from Carol Witham, current CNPS board president. Joan has contributed many years of dedicated service to the CNPS state organization and the San Diego and Alta Peak Chapters. She is currently the Chapter Council secretary and helped to organize the meeting at which she received the award!

Chapter Distinguished Service Awards given by chapter's to their own members included the San Luis Obispo Chapter's Robert F. Hoover Award, named for a botany professor who helped start the local CNPS chapter. This year's recipient is Suzanne "Suzi" Bernstein, the chapter education chair, who has helped local schools with native plantings and organized public outreach.

The VRC welcomes nominations for future awards. Please submit them with the concurrence of your chapter president. 🌱

—Charles Blair, Chair, VRC, [blairce@sbceo.org](mailto:blairce@sbceo.org)

# Ft. Irwin Tank Training Threatens Rare Plant with Extinction

## Lane Mountain milkvetch saga continues

This past June, CNPS and our environmental allies filed objections to a flawed federal Critical Habitat ruling for the endangered Lane Mountain milkvetch and a suite of rare desert plants. We sought to stop the U.S. Army tank training facility at Fort Irwin from expanding into areas harboring these plants and the threatened desert tortoise. If the project goes forward, as will be determined within the year, the species will be pushed to the edge of extinction.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has issued a “non-jeopardy biological opinion” that the Army’s plan will not jeopardize the existence of the Lane Mountain milkvetch (or the desert tortoise). However, CNPS fails to see how that conclusion was reached; all areas on the base will have some impact on the species. Also, the potential conservation area outside Fort Irwin consists of Bureau of Land Management lands, which, certainly under the current administration, will not limit mining in Lane Mountain milkvetch habitat.

The Lane Mountain milkvetch (*Astragalus jaegerianus*) has been listed as Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) since 1998. It is only known from a range 18 miles in diameter in the central Mojave Desert. All known populations are threatened from dry wash mining and the potential military expansion. While the Critical Habitat ruling sets aside some fragmented habitat, a problem in itself, CNPS has asked for further clarification on how tank avoidance measures such as reflective stakes and ditches will prevent species damage when past tank training has involved tanks getting lost and driving for miles outside of Fort Irwin.

Unfortunately, this problem has been known for a long time. In the late 1980s Fort Irwin proposed to expand by 328,660 acres to the south, southwest, and southeast of the existing base. At that time, the FWS issued a draft bio-

logical opinion that the expansion would jeopardize the existence of the threatened desert tortoise in the Mojave Desert. The full range of the Lane Mountain milkvetch was known to occur in the area at that time, but it was not yet protected under the Endangered Species Act, so FWS didn’t have to evaluate the plant. Still, because of the opinion related to the tortoise, the Army withdrew the proposal and regrouped.

They decided to try expanding to the east of the

of informational meetings. At those meetings, the public—including CNPS—called for issues to be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) required by NEPA.

Shortly after these meetings, presumably to hedge their bets, and despite objections voiced by CNPS and other environmental groups, the Army moved its campaign to Washington, D.C. In 2001 the Army persuaded members of Congress to add a rider to an appropriations bill which withdrew 110,000 acres from public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and deeded them to the Army to become part of Fort Irwin.

On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed the Fort Irwin Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 2001 into law. Now, most of the known Lane Mountain milkvetch locations are part of a national tank training facility. The legislation also required a full NEPA review prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

In the meantime, CNPS, with help from the Center for Biological Diversity, was engaged in litigation to force the FWS to establish Critical Habitat under the FESA for a number of rare plants, including the Lane Mountain milkvetch. On April 6, 2004, the draft Critical Habitat was issued and included sizeable portions within the Fort Irwin expansion boundaries. Unfortunately, the Critical Habitat failed to incorporate basic conservation biology principles that require unfragmented reserves. The comments of CNPS and other environmental groups regarding the Critical Habitat are being reviewed by the FWS and the final Critical Habitat designation is likely to occur within the year.

With the Lane Mountain milkvetch’s historically limited range, the catastrophic loss of habitat eliminates the ability of the species to recover to levels where it can be released from FESA protection. 🌱

—Heene Anderson,

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base, but this proposal did not fully meet the Army’s training needs and generated outrage from the off-road vehicle community.

So, in the late 1990s, the Army tried again with a modified southwest expansion. By this time, the Lane Mountain milkvetch had been listed as an endangered species under FESA. Because of the previous opinion that found the desert tortoise to be in jeopardy, the Army reduced the expansion area, noting that it would not meet their training exercise needs. The Army then began pursuing greater expansion under the process called for in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and held a series

# NEWS BRIEFS

## CNPS FELLOW JO KITZ NAMED 'WOMAN OF THE YEAR'



CNPS stalwart Jo Kitz with Assemblywoman Fran Pavley. Photo courtesy of the office of Assemblywoman Fran Pavley

Jo Kitz, CNPS Fellow, long-time Los Angeles-Santa Monica Mountains Chapter board member, a committed weed warrior, and director of the Mountains Restoration Trust, was recently selected by California State Assemblywoman Fran Pavley as her 2004 Woman of the Year.

Each Assembly member selects a woman from his or her district who has contributed significantly to the community. "Jo Kitz's friends call her an extraordinary treasure hidden in the Santa Monica Mountains," said Pavley when she presented the award at a ceremony on the floor of the legislature in Sacramento.

Jo helped establish the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and has made it her life-long commitment to preserve and protect thousands of acres of the Santa Monica Mountains. She is active in efforts to restore the oak savannah at Malibu Creek State Park, often leading groups of at-risk youth and other volunteers in planting and invasives removal projects in the park.

## AWARD FOR SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

The San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and project partner RECON Environmental, received an EARTH Award (Environmental And Restoration That Helps) from San Diego EarthWorks for their work creating native plant gardens in ten area schools. RECON donated 2,000 plants and the Chapter provided funding and volunteers to assist in the creation of the native plant gardens and ensure that the native plant garden is a success. EarthWorks noted that the gardens will provide a learning resource for the students who will be able to learn on site the value and benefit of our unique native flora and wildlife. The Chapter has made a commitment on an annual basis to schools throughout San Diego County. The EARTH Awards program acknowledges sensitive daily actions that add up over time. The awards were presented by Mayor Dick Murphy at a special ceremony.

## CNPS QUOTED ON ORV AREA

"The California Native Plant Society has no desire to close all public lands to off-road vehicle use," said Emily Roberson, senior policy analyst with the society, which threatened to sue in March after an off-road event roared through

wildflower habitat. "However, some areas are simply too fragile and too valuable to be exposed to ORV (off-road vehicle) damage."

Keeping vehicles out of plant reserves would also protect hikers from toxic dust kicked up by spinning tires, Roberson said. "The dust is just as bad for wildflower watchers as it is for motorcycle riders," she said. "We want to use these lands, too."

In a 1998 plan, the BLM agreed that 4,000 of Clear Creek's 50,000 acres would eventually be set aside for habitat research and largely closed to recreational traffic. But the plan has never been implemented, and only 1,880 acres are currently off limits.

— From an article in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Sunday, June 13. The article examined the issues surrounding ORV use in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Clear Creek Management Area (CCMA) including naturally occurring asbestos that is kicked-up into the air by ORV use and CNPS's actions to get the BLM to come into compliance with federal laws governing management and conservation of the threatened San Benito Evening Primrose. Donations in support of legal actions like these are always welcome. 🌱

## GO TO [WWW.RENYSWILDFLOWERS.COM](http://WWW.RENYSWILDFLOWERS.COM)

Web-surfing botanists can now explore nature's beauty, get gardening ideas, or plan trips with an expert CNPS guide. Reny Parker, Milo Baker Chapter president, has launched a free wildflower website with more than 1,300 images. Visitors can search by family, botanical or common name, color, or location. Thousands more of Reny's photos will be added to this ongoing project. Go to [www.renyswildflowers.com](http://www.renyswildflowers.com). 🌱



A photo of blue eyed grass from [www.renyswildflowers.com](http://www.renyswildflowers.com) Photo: Reny Parker

## CNPS Names New Volunteer Program Chairs

CNPS recently named two new volunteer program chairs. Longtime CNPS member Ann Howald is the new volunteer rare plant program director. Ann is currently works a consultant with Garcia & Associates, San Anselmo, a natural and cultural resources consulting firm. She is an active member of the Milo Baker Chapter of CNPS, where she is a frequent field-trip leader. In recent years, Ann has also taught biology at Santa Rosa Junior College, and for eight years she was a plant ecologist with the California Department of Fish and Game in Sacramento and Yountville. Ann says she looks forward to working closely with Misa Ward, CNPS Interim Rare Plant Botanist, and helping lead the planning process for the Rare Plant Program. Ann can be reached at [annhowald@vom.com](mailto:annhowald@vom.com).

The new volunteer horticulture program director is Peigi Duvall, a member of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter. Peigi volunteered for the State Finance Committee last year, offering skills and experience gained from her previous life in business financial management to help with the broad scope of work carried out by CNPS

throughout California. She is now finishing a degree in environmental horticulture and will take the test for her Landscape Contractor's license this fall. Peigi tells us that in conversations with others in her industry, she hears fellow designers, contractors, landscape architects, nursery and maintenance people as well as homeowners express the desire and need to better understand native flora. She notes that questions, myths and misunderstandings about native flora abound. And, she says, who better than CNPS, with its treasure trove of answers and wisdom, to provide opportunities to promote, support and encourage the appropriate horticultural use of California native plants? A native of the Monterey Peninsula, Peigi grew up playing among the *Vaccinium ovatum*, *Pinus radiata* on Carmel Hill, watching bunnies in spring scurry among the coastal strand at River Beach, welcoming the waves of bloom of Lupine and *Eschscholzia californica* in the fields near Marina, as well as learning Girl Scout campfire songs among the sycamores and willows in Carmel Valley. Peigi can be reached at [indigdesign@comcast.net](mailto:indigdesign@comcast.net).

## North Coast Chapter to Buy Home of Two-Flowered Pea

The two-flowered pea (*Lathyrus biflorus*) is known from a single occurrence on privately owned land in central Humboldt County. The site was originally discovered by Tom Nelson in 1983, and has since been monitored by members of the North Coast Chapter. Members of the Chapter are in the process of purchasing the 40 acre parcel that is home to half of the two-flowered pea population. CNPS stewardship of the site would give botanists continued access to study the plant, monitor the effects of logging done in 1995, and ensure the long-term survival of the species. The land may eventually be transferred to the Six Rivers National Forest, which manages the adjacent Lassics Botanical and Geological Area. 🌱

—Jen Kalt,  
Forestry Program Coordinator  
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### FWS REBUFFS CHALLENGE TO STATUS OF PEIRSON'S MILKVETCH Algodones Dunes vs. off-road vehicles

Those of you who have been following the saga of the Algodones Dunes and their suite of endemic plant species versus off-road vehicle groups will be glad to know that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has reached a decision based on good science. The FWS reviewed the data provided by the off-road groups trying to remove federal protections for the Peirson's milkvetch (*Astragalus magdalanae* var. *peirsonii*) and determined that the activity of off-road vehicles in the area in Imperial County continue to threaten its existence.

While this determination may be challenged in court, it is encouraging to know that this time, the FWS has not allowed science to be subjugated by politics. The continued protection of the Peirson's Milkvetch through Critical Habitat land management plans will help to ensure conservation for the other endemic plants (and animals) in the area, as well. These include the a number of rare CNPS List 1B species, and Wiggin's croton (*Croton wigginsii*), a CNPS List 2 species. Ultimately, CNPS supports activities that would recover and sustain the Peirson's Milkvetch and other Algodones Dunes species at levels that will make Endangered Species Act protection unnecessary.

Please contact California Senators Dianne Feinstein (<http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>) and Barbara Boxer (<http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.cfm>) and your local state representative to express support of the FWS decision. 🌱

—Ileene Anderson, Southern California Regional Botanist, [ieanderson@earthblink.net](mailto:ieanderson@earthblink.net)



A 40-acre parcel in Humboldt contains half of the two-flowered pea population. Photo: J. Kalt, 2004.

## Coyote Ridge Survey continued from page 1

Canyon jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus* subsp. *albidus*), Santa Clara Valley dudleya (*Dudleya setchellii*), most beautiful jewel-flower (*Streptanthus albidus* subsp. *peramoenus*), smooth lessingia (*Lessingia micradenia* var.

*We're hopeful that our conservation recommendations will be taken seriously.*

*glabrata*), San Francisco wallflower (*Erysimum franciscanum*), fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*), and grand linanthus (*Linanthus grandiflorus*). CNPS has reported the findings to the California Natural Diversity Database and relevant land managers.

**Plotting of Invasive species.** The surveyors also plotted new weed populations such as pampas grass, yellow star-thistle, and the very invasive barbed goat grass. CNPS notified the county's Weed Management Area of these findings and discussed control strategies with the private land owners. The vegetation surveys also have provided data on the percent cover of invasive annual rye grass, which is threatening the plant habitat of the bay checkerspot butterfly and several other listed insect species. Further, the surveys have documented areas of overgrazing and feral pig damage that are affecting rare plant populations.

### NEW ACTIVITY FOR MEMBERS

Another benefit of the vegetation surveys is that they provided a new activity for chapter members. While surveying requires that one team member identify the plants, it also provides opportunities for those who have other skills such as photography, orienteering, record-keeping, and data entry. One survey stalwart, Ben Hammett, a retired Stanford professor, acted as volunteer plant photographer and also ferried survey crews up to the ridge in his Explorer. Tom Cochrane, also known as "trail traveler," has a full-time job but nonetheless spent many weekends leading field trips, working on plant lists, and surveying.

In the Santa Clara Valley an important ben-

efit from the survey work is that CNPS is becoming widely recognized as a significant science-based conservation organization. The survey demonstrated that CNPS is not only concerned about conservation biology, but also able to generate valid and useful data about the ecosystems in the area. CNPS has presented the survey results to the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority, the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Commission, the Santa Clara County Weed Management Area, and environmental advocacy organizations and private groups. All have complimented our work and supported our efforts

by sharing information, lending equipment, and joining our survey crews as volunteers.

### A SCIENCE-BASED ORGANIZATION

The Nature Conservancy and the Santa Clara Valley Water District have requested our data, and we've been more than pleased to share. Public agencies have responded to this work with respect and trust, making us hopeful that our conservation recommendations will be taken seriously. 🌿

— Don Mayall, CNPS Co-Rare Plant Coordinator, Santa Clara Valley, *seleve@ix.netcom.com*, and Julie Evens, CNPS Vegetation Ecologist, *jevsn@cnps.org*.

## Rare Plant Inventory continued from page 1

than strongly recurved at the tips. Thanks, Joe, for your excellent field work and to all those who helped review this exciting new addition.

Other species added to List 1B in the inventory include the following: *Collinsia antonina* (San Antonio collinsia), which is known only from Monterey County; *Harmonia guggolziorum* (Guggolz's harmonia), a species that has been recently described as new to science; *Prunus eremophila* (Desert plum), which is known only from the southern Mojave Desert; *Saltugilia latimeri* (Latimer's woodland gilia), another newly described species; and *Sisyrinchium hitchcockii* (Hitchcock's blue-eyed grass), which is known from only one collection in Humboldt County.

Major changes to the inventory include not only new additions like the species mentioned above, but also deletions and changes in CNPS List status and in scientific name. Since the publication of the sixth edition of the inventory in 2001, more than 100 major changes have been identified. Another 300-plus possible additions were postponed until after publication of the sixth edition because of a lack of consensus in review meetings. Most of these plants are taxonomically questionable or lack distribution information.

To address this large volume of changes, the Rare Plant Program, of which the inventory is an important product, has shifted to a continuous data development and dissemination process and developed an efficient and timely process for ensuring adequate review of major changes.



Changes to the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants, like adding *Fritillaria gentneri* (Gentner's fritillary), are reviewed by hundreds of botanists organized into seven regions: Central West (CW), East Side / Deserts (ES/D), Great Valley (GV), Modoc Plateau (MP), North West (NW), Sierra Nevada (SN), and South West (SW). Photo credit: Joe Molter

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## Rare Plants from page 6

### A NEW UPDATE PROCESS

Now, at the beginning of each quarter, the inventory updates are added to the CNPS Rare Plant Program web page <http://www.cnps.org/rareplants/inventory/changes/index.htm> and disseminated via the online *Inventory*. CNPS also shares the major changes and supporting information with the California Natural Diversity Database, a repository of rare plant information maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game, so that they can update their dataset and publish new versions of their *Special Plants, Bryophytes, and Lichens List*.

To learn more about the steps of the data development and review process, visit <http://www.cnps.org/rareplants/inventory/changes/process.htm>.

### RARE PLANT PROGRAM REVIEW

The Rare Plant Program, of which the inventory is a major product, was the first program created within CNPS and remains one of our core endeavors. The inventory has served as a key information source for the protection of rare plants for more than three decades. But of course, the world of conservation biology, laws and regulations, and the science of taxonomy have all changed dramatically since the early days of the program. As we approach the 40th anniversary of CNPS, the time is ripe to evaluate our current program and make plans to improve it where necessary.

Under the leadership of Ann Howald, new director of the CNPS Rare Plant Program, this process is already well underway. CNPS is assessing how we provide rare plant information and species protection through a series of ad-hoc working groups focused on the following topics: inventory ranking system, rare plant monitoring, inventory data dissemination, state and federal listing, locally rare species, and conservation and research plans. Working group recommendations and products will be used to shape the program's priorities during the CNPS planning process for 2005. 🌱

— Misa Ward,  
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# Why We All Can Just Get Along

## Editorial: “Greens” vs. Development

Arguments waged over environmental issues invariably pit the “greens” against development, often casting local activists as anti-development, anti-progress, anti-people, and so on. While a few activists may be “anti” this or that, most, in fact, are extraordinarily “pro.”

In polls over the past several decades, some 85% of Americans identify themselves as “environmentalists.” Surely that many people don't feel negative about everything happening around them. When people join hands across a river or in front of a bulldozer, maybe there's a good reason.

That Americans voice near-unanimous pro-environment sentiments shows an increasing awareness that we are not a species—or nation—apart from nature. The struggle to triumph over nature is evolving into a gentler quest to live in harmony with it. The 15% of Americans who don't regard themselves as environmentalists likely haven't given much thought to what that might mean. If you are not pro-environment, then what do you favor? Smog and sewage?

Every living organism on earth shares one big bowl of water, one atmosphere, one earth on which to grow food and families. For the most part, the earth's natural systems supply the resources needed free of charge, but with limits. The earth is incredibly resilient, but not invulnerable, and resources take time to produce. If one of these “free services” is overtaxed by our use, and fails to renew itself, everyone and everything loses equally. Being pro-environment, then, means being aware and working to protect earth's promise from abuses that jeopardize our future.

When environmentalists are portrayed as anti-development and pilloried in the press for obstructing progress, it's a communication failure. Both sides may be speaking, but who's listening? Developers and politicians are family people with lives just like the rest of us—car payments, mortgages, leaky plumbing, orthodontia for the kids. They do their jobs with the same aspirations as everyone else, trying to keep the boss happy and rise through the system. Bearing no particular malice for that which lies in their paths, the bulldozers rumble in

and nature is rumbled off. After all, you can't build houses without first cutting trees, mining, smelting steel, cutting roads, and carving out buildable sites. New homes demand water, electricity, and other resource-consuming services, yielding rivers of effluent and full trash containers in return.

If the situation is that simple, why the conflicts? Why oppose what seems inevitable and necessary? Most environmentalists don't oppose development or services. They simply want to ensure that new development, infrastructure, and services are situated where they will do the least harm to our remaining resources. They want to protect our water, prevent our air from becoming a filthy soup of exhaust gases, and preserve enough open space so everyone living here—old and new residents alike—can continue to enjoy the quality of life that enticed them to California in the first place.

Does anyone really think that the 85% of Americans who are pro-environment spend their evenings fretting about a toad or gnatcatcher? Battles waged over seemingly obscure sensitive species being overlooked or overrun aren't about those species alone, they are about all species together. The potential environmental threats are very real, and the demands made for honesty and integrity in reporting are made in behalf of all of you, who deserve to know the truth about future impacts on your quality of life. Face value is not good enough when our collective future is at stake. If a report seems flawed or its conclusions ring false, the critical issues must be resolved before granting permits or approvals. Sound projects should proceed, but dangerous ones must be denied. Drawing the line at a toad's doorstep is a lot smarter than waiting until it comes to yours.

So, when environmentalists voice concern over poorly-prepared biological reports or conflicting assessments of water supplies don't roll your eyes and dismiss them as anti-progress extremists. In trying to protect the resources of California, they aren't just pro-birds, beetles and badgers—they are pro-you. 🌱

—Frank Hovore

(note: this article first appeared in *The Signal News*, [www.the-signal.com](http://www.the-signal.com))

## Planned Giving

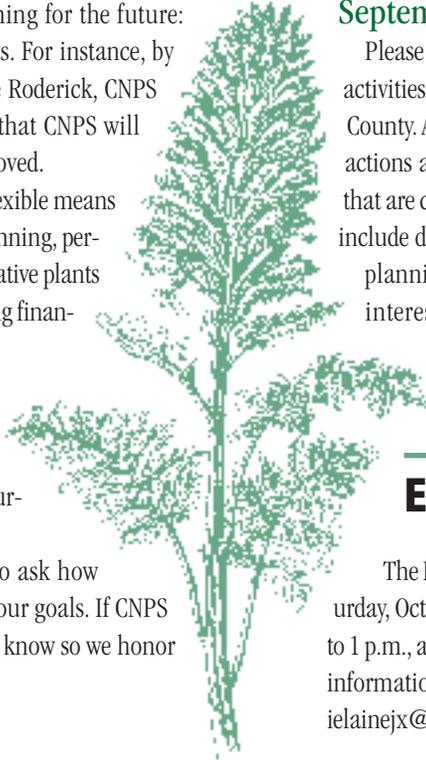
### For the future of California flora

Planned gifts to CNPS are about planning for the future: yours and that of California's native plants. For instance, by including CNPS in his estate plans, Wayne Roderick, CNPS Fellow and a founding member, ensured that CNPS will have the means to look after the flora he loved.

A planned gift to CNPS is a simple and flexible means to combine philanthropy with financial planning, perhaps helping you give more to California's native plants than you thought possible while still providing financial and tax benefits.

When you make a planned gift to CNPS you join a growing number of special supporters who are committed to helping California's native plants and their habitats flourish in perpetuity.

Please contact the CNPS State Office to ask how planned giving can help you accomplish your goals. If CNPS is already in your estate plans please let us know so we honor your exceptional commitment.



## All Are Welcome at Chapter Council Meeting

### September in Marin

Please plan to attend the CNPS Chapter Council Meeting and associated activities on Saturday, September 11, at the Walker Creek Ranch in Marin County. At the meeting, we'll share valuable information and enjoy interactions among chapters. We'll engage in discussion and make decisions that are critical to CNPS. We need your input! The close of the meeting will include dinner and a presentation by a speaker to be named. We are also planning field trips around the meeting. All are welcome, including interested members, families, and friends. For information about booking rooms and meals and for directions, contact the state office at 916-447-2677.

## East Bay Chapter Plant Sale

The East Bay Chapter will hold its 38th annual native plant sale on Saturday, October 2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, October 3, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Horticulture Grounds of Merrit College in Oakland. For more information, contact the East Bay Chapter at <http://www.ebcnps.org/>, or [ielainej@mindspring.com](mailto:ielainej@mindspring.com), 925.376.4095 or 510.525.6614. 🌱

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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.

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