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CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

BULLETIN

In Gratitude to David Chipping

Plant Conservation Visionary

BY SUE BRITTING

David Chipping, who for the past nine years headed up the CNPS Conservation Program, retired from his state level position in December 2005. From 1997–2001 David served as vice president for conservation, and then from 2002–2005 as program director for conservation.

I first met David Chipping in 1995 at the CNPS conservation conference at Sierra College in Rocklin, CA. The conference was packed with concurrent sessions on the hot conservation topics of the day. As a presenter, David was doing his best to challenge our thinking about how we look at plants and the tools we use for conservation. This was my first experience of Master Chipping—visionary extraordinaire.

During his tenure at CNPS, the Conservation Program focused to a large extent on the management of federal lands, particularly national forests, and desert areas under Bureau of Land Management jurisdiction. David also provided assistance and advice to chapters on their local conservation issues. He took the lead in developing handbooks to help chapters and members understand the laws and principles behind Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs), Timber Harvest Plans (THPs), and wetland regulations. These resources have proved invaluable to conservation efforts and are posted on the CNPS website.

YEARS OF SERVICE AND DEDICATION

We owe much thanks and appreciation to David for his years of service and dedication to the Conservation Program. At every step of the way, he has encouraged us to think outside of our little plant "box" and to conceive of ways to appeal to the hearts and minds of the people around us. What I have always appreciated about David is his provocative offering of ideas and the subsequent rousing debate it engenders. We have fun in the process, and always seem to end up with better solutions.

Luckily for us, David is not planning to disappear. He remains on the CNPS Lawsuit Committee and is advising on conservation issues during the transi-

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Linda Chipping

Inventory Ranking System Undergoes Changes

System that assigns levels of rarity and endangerment to native plants now easier to understand and use

BY MISA WARD

The CNPS *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* was the Society's first publication and, along with its online version, is a familiar tool used by agency personnel, consultants, students, and others to aid them in surveys, research, and conservation. The *Inventory's* ranking system was the first to rate the conservation status of rare plants in California. Over the years, the *Inventory's* ranking system has undergone very slight modification.

During the 2004–2005 comprehensive review of the Rare Plant Program (RPP), participants identified the R-E-D code as one element of the CNPS *Inventory* ranking system in need of improvement. The ad hoc Ranking System Working Group was formed to develop specific recommendations. With recent upgrades to the RPP's database that contains all the *Inventory* data, we are now able to implement those recommendations.

The *Inventory* contains information on over 2,100 of the state's rarest plants. It uses a ranking system comprised of five lists to indicate levels of rarity for plants and to categorize degrees of concern or endangerment based on their abundance, distribution, and other factors (see sidebar on page 6). *Lower*-numbered lists indicate plants of greater concern.

CNPS List 1A plants are of great concern because, although these species haven't been seen in decades and are presumed to no longer exist in the state, if one were rediscovered, it would almost always turn out to be one of the rarest and most endangered plants in California. This is exactly what happened in 2005 when Mt. Diablo buckwheat and California dissanthelium (a grass) were rediscovered. Both have now been transferred to CNPS List 1B. Plants on List 1B are of highest conservation priority because they

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CNPS Has a New Executive Director


Jeff Jorgenson

Amanda Jorgenson joined CNPS as its new executive director on January 17, 2006. A native of Bogotá, Colombia, she has lived and worked in Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, and the United States.

Amanda is an enthusiastic and committed conservation biologist with a BS in biology from George Mason University and a MA in Latin American studies/tropical conservation and development from the University of Florida, Gainesville. For her MA thesis she conducted a biological and socioeconomic study of *chicle* extraction by Maya Indians in Quintana Roo, Mexico. *Chicle* latex comes from the *Manilkara zapota* tree and is used to make chewing gum.

Amanda has more than 5 years of executive management and supervisory experience, as well as 15 years of professional experience in the design and implementation of natural resource management and conservation programs. Most of that experience has been in the nonprofit sector, but she is also familiar with the private and public sectors.

Prior to coming to CNPS, Amanda served for four years as the Ecuador program coordinator with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), an international conservation organization based in New York. Preceding that, she was executive director of Fundación Natura, a prestigious conservation organization in Colombia. While in Colombia she also worked as a consultant on project design and implementation issues for the Ministry of the Environment and for World Wildlife Fund-Colombia.

In the United States, Amanda worked as a program manager for Tropical Research and Development, Inc., an international natural resource management consulting firm in Gainsville. She began her professional career at World Wildlife Fund-US in Washington, DC.

Amanda and her family live in Elk Grove. Her husband, Jeff, is an endangered species biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Service. They have a daughter, Sofia, who is in the third grade. All enjoy outdoor activities and taking long walks with Mariposa, their black lab.

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Amanda Jorgenson, Executive Director

Partnership Trio: Aveda, CNPS, and ESA

For the second year running, the personal care company Aveda has asked CNPS to join it in its Earth Month Campaign. Each April Aveda selects a theme that highlights an important environmental issue in celebration of the environment. This year the campaign will focus on promoting the Endangered Species Act. CNPS was selected as a partner in the southern California region.

A cadre of volunteers, led by Halli Mason, will be visiting salons in southern California to provide information and ideas about the importance of plant conservation in California. Stylists in each salon then talk to their clients and encourage them to support CNPS with a donation, and to sign the petition to Congress asking that the Endangered Species Act be strengthened.

PR Newswire

July 2005 DC event in front of nation's Capitol, where over 200,000 signatures in support of endangered species were presented to members of Congress.

Aveda has also created a decorative candle for sale, and all of the proceeds from it will go to the Earth Month partners. For more information or to volunteer for a preparation and presentation team, contact Halli Mason at hmason@sbcglobal.net or 818-345-6749.

Halli Mason
LA/Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter

Increased Protection for Sensitive Plants in Logging Plans

Last July the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) approved new guidelines for the conservation of sensitive native plant resources within the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) process. The guidelines are intended to reduce timber-related impacts to sensitive plants, including non-listed species as defined by 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15380 (d).

The new guidelines address major deficiencies in the timber harvest environmental review process. They set basic standards for botanical scoping and floristic surveys, and specify the need to identify and document all sensitive plant species within the project area. This recommendation is a particularly important one, since many species are often overlooked by inexperienced or unqualified surveyors.

The DFG guidelines also include recommendations for assessing forestry herbicide impacts to sensitive species, and for identifying vegetation types within the project area. In addition, the guidelines establish an expiration date for plant surveys (typically five years).

Unfortunately, the California Department of Forestry (CDF) has yet to uphold these guidelines, and THPs continue to be approved without meeting these basic standards. Although DFG is the trustee agency that works to protect sensitive plants and wildlife, CDF is the lead agency in Timber Harvest Plans and does not always heed input from other agencies involved in THP review.

DFG's new guidelines must be enforced to avoid direct impacts to sensitive plants. Although they fail to address cumulative impacts and are nebulous at best on mitigation requirements, once these guidelines become the accepted standard they are likely to result in better protections for sensitive plant populations. The CNPS Forestry Program will continue to review THPs to further basic protections for sensitive species. For more information on CNPS's Forestry Program, visit http://www.cnps.org/programs/forestry/index.htm.

Jennifer Kalt

After a redwood site is logged, the debris is burned, and then several applications of herbicides are applied to prepare for replanting. Redwood House Road, Humboldt County.

Jennifer Kalt
Coordinator, CNPS Forestry Program

New CNPS Inventory "Sponsorship" Forms Available

The CNPS Rare Plant Program frequently receives requests for changes to the *CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants,* including additions, deletions, list changes, and scientific name changes. For example, botanists may request that a new species be added or a List 4 species be upgraded to List 1B.

For such changes, program staff research, compile, and summarize necessary supporting information so it can be reviewed by groups of regional experts. This preparation work takes a significant amount of time, especially because many change requests are made with little or no supporting information.

To expedite the review and processing of future changes to the Inventory, we are asking requesters to "sponsor" proposed changes by formally requesting them and submitting the needed supporting information in a standard format. This new process is more efficient and organized than the old system, because it specifies the type of data we need, consolidates the information for reviewers, and makes it easier to identify data gaps. It also provides more transparency in the Inventory review process and makes it easier to give credit to contributors.

The sponsorship package requests supporting data and rationale for a proposed major change and consists of four documents: the Instructions Memo, Status Change Request, New Addition/List Upgrade Data Form, and Glossary. Both the sponsorship package and information on the review process are available online at: www.cnps.org/programs/Rare_Plant/inventory/changes/index.htm.

We encourage those who wish to propose new changes to the *Inventory*, as well as those who have previously requested changes, to try out the new forms and submit them to the program via email, regular mail, or fax. We are very grateful to have already received our first completed sponsorship package. By the time this issue of the CNPS Bulletin arrives in your home, this change will have entered our Inventory status review process. To all those who intend to submit Inventory change requests in the near future, please know that we greatly appreciate your taking the time to complete the new sponsorship package.

Misa Ward
CNPS Rare Plant Botanist

CHAPTER NEWS

SANHEDRIN CHAPTER MONITORING RARE CHECKERBLOOM

Since July 2005 the Sanhedrin chapter has been conducting a one-year project, partially-sponsored by matching funds from the National Forest Foundation, to monitor populations of the rare native checkerbloom *(Sidalcea hickmanii)* and the invasive non-native tansy ragwort *(Senecio jacobaea)* near Lake Pillsbury in the Mendocino National Forest. Chapter volunteers installed mesh exclosures over some of the checkerbloom to determine the influence of browsing on the plant's vigor. Manual control of the ragwort will be attempted this spring.

Both populations were discovered in firelines following a fire in 2001. Checkerbloom is a "climax fire species" that can linger in the soil for decades and even require periodic fire to rejuvenate the soil seed bank. The population at Lake Pillsbury displays a combination of unique characteristics that may lead to its classification as a separate subspecies, according to Dr. Steven Hill of the Center for Wildlife and Plant Ecology in Illinois. Although the photo shows the checkerbloom's tiny flowers on short stalks, some crowns have dead stalks up to 18 inches tall.

David Isle

A rare checkerbloom (Sidalcea hickmanii) *at Lake Pillsbury, July 2005.*

After July 2006, annual monitoring of this site will continue on a volunteer basis, and funding is being sought for more extensive surveys.

Tara Athan
Sanhedrin Chapter

SEEN FROM THE TRAIL

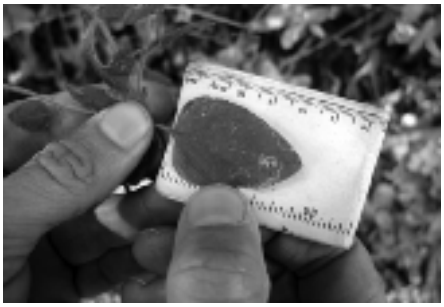
Tom Cochrane, whose email address includes the appellation "trailtraveler," is a popular fieldtrip leader in the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS. He is also a conscientious reporter of rare plant sightings to the Department of Fish and Game, having submitted more than 30 reports in 2005!

While scouting a trail for a possible field trip in Henry Coe State Park in 2004, he noticed a coyote mint *(Monardella villosa* ssp. *villosa)* that looked a little different. Its leaves were significantly bigger than the common variety. He checked his Jepson Manual and found it matched the description of ssp. *globosa,* a CNPS list 1B taxon heretofore unreported in Santa Clara County. The habitat, an opening in oak woodland, matched other sightings at more northerly locations, as reported in Calflora and Rarefind3.

On a second trip to the site, armed with digital camera, ruler, and the chapter's Garmin GPS unit, he checked with Park Ranger Barry Breckling, who had also noticed the large-leafed plant. Park Biologist Janine Koshear joined Tom in a third visit to the site. Convinced of his identification, Tom submitted a survey form to the California Natural Diversity Database. This discovery brought to 16 the number of CNPS special status plants in Coe Park. With 86,000 acres, of which 23,000 are wilderness, Coe Park is the largest state park in northern California.

Don Mayall
Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Jane Huber



Mathew Sagues

Left: Common coyote mint (Monardella villosa ssp. villosa). *Right: Robust monardella* (Monardella villosa ssp. globosa) *can sometimes have leaves up to twice the size of the common coyote mint.*

MOJAVE DESERT BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION WORKSHOP

This spring, CNPS members desiring an artistic field experience may wish to enroll in a native plant illustration workshop being offered at the Desert Studies Center in Soda Springs, CA by a new member of the Mojave Chapter, Donald Davidson. "Botanical Illustration of Native Desert Flora" is being offered April 7–9 during the height of the 2006 blooming season in the East Mojave. Since 1999, Donaldson has developed a number of innovative native plant conservation programs. Additional information on them is available at the National Park Service's Traveling Artist Wildflowers Project website (http://www.nps.gov/plants/cw/watercolor/index.htm). For details on the upcoming workshop (Art 1509, CSU-San Bernardino), go to http://cel.csusb.edu/catalog/index.html, or call 909-537-5975.

Yerba mansa (Anemopsis californica) *drawn by CSU-San Bernardino student Sara North, a participant in the 2005 Mojave workshop.*

David Chipping

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tion to a new program director. He will also continue to work on the development of conservation tools for use by CNPS chapters. I offer a warm thank you to David for his leadership and vision, and I look forward to working with him for many more years on the pressing conservation issues of the day.

***Sue Britting** is past president of CNPS. For the past six months she has served as the Society's acting executive director, and now rejoins the Board of Directors as an at-large member.*

Mardi Niles

David Chipping (center, no hat) in 2003 at San Luis Obispo Chapter ice plant removal project at Piedras Blancas Lighthouse.

Inventory Ranking System

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are rare, threatened, or endangered in California *and* elsewhere. Conversely, plants on List 4 have a limited distribution in California but are less rare compared to those on other CNPS Lists.

The R-E-D Code, a ranking tool that has been used as shorthand for information on Rarity, Endangerment, and Distribution, originated with the first edition of the *Inventory* in 1974. All species in the *Inventory* were ranked as a 1, 2, or 3 for each value. Unlike the CNPS Lists, *higher* values in the R-E-D Code indicate greater concern, a reversal some have found confusing. The R-E-D Code number system also was reversed compared to the nationwide natural heritage ranking system used by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). In CNDDB's system of state and global ranking, *lower* numbers indicate greater concern.

Though the R-E-D Code has a long tradition within CNPS, it has been a source of confusion for *Inventory* users and has resulted in needless duplication of effort by CNPS and CNDDB staff. The E (Endangerment) value, which is the most important of the three when prioritizing conservation efforts, was buried within the poorly understood R-E-D Code. In addition, the R (Rarity) and D (Distribution) values were largely redundant because this information was already contained within the CNPS List definitions.

To address these shortcomings, the Ranking System Working Group reviewed the *Inventory* ranking system and developed needed modifications. With the approval of the CNPS Board

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2005 Volunteer Service Awards

Four CNPS members have been named to receive 2005 Volunteer Service Awards. The honor is conferred on volunteers who have made significant contributions to the preservation and appreciation of California's native flora.

Jennifer Kalt (North Coast Chapter) was recognized for outstanding efforts in conservation, including her involvement in local and state-wide forestry issues and plant sale leadership. Since 1998 she has spent approximately 150 hours a year on CNPS activities.

Doreen Smith (Marin Chapter) was recognized for her dedicated, wide-reaching work, including growing native plants for the chapter's plant sales and teaching.

Delia Taylor (East Bay Chapter) was honored for her highly effective contributions to membership and outreach activities. She was one of the key organizers of the splendid December 2 CNPS 40th Anniversary Celebration at Tilden Regional Park, which was enjoyed by hundreds of members and supporters from the immediate area and beyond.

Celia Kutcher (Orange County Chapter) was honored for her 25 years of hard work on behalf of the chapter. She was commended for her intense interest and encyclopedic knowledge of the county's native plants, as well as for her keen organizational skills.

The CNPS Volunteer Recognition Committee welcomes nominations at any time of chapter members who have made significant contributions to the work of CNPS. The committee also wishes to recognize agency personnel and legislators who have made similar contributions to protect California's native flora.

To do so, simply send a brief one-page statement about the nominee to blairce@sbceo.org. Statements may either be submitted by the chapter president, or with their concurrence.

Charles Blair, Chair
Volunteer Recognition Committee

Inventory Ranking System

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of Directors, the Working Group has recommended to discontinue use of the R-E-D Code and to convey the information it contains in a clearer way.

The E value from the R-E-D code has been replaced by a new Threat Code extension that will now be added to the number of each CNPS list.

.1 – Seriously endangered in California
.2 – Fairly endangered in California
.3 – Not very endangered in California

List 3 (need more information—a review list) plants lacking threat information receive no threat code extension.

What happened to the other two values in the R-E-D code? The former D (Distribution) value primarily indicated whether the plant is a California endemic, or more or less widespread outside the state. Worldwide distribution is still conveyed by the global rank (G-rank) assigned by the CNDDB. Information contained in the former R (Rarity) value is still conveyed in the

Markku Savela

In California, spiked larkspur (Delphinium stachydeum) *is only known to occur in Lassen and Modoc counties. It is now ranked as List 2.3. The 2 indicates that it is rare in California but more common elsewhere, and the .3 "extension" indicates it is not very threatened in California.*

While the CNPS Lists are based on rarity alone, the Threat Code extension now highlights the endangerment factor and represents this information in parallel with the rankings that the CNDDB uses. Therefore, the *lower* the number, the higher the corresponding threat level. For example, a listing of 1B.1 indicates a plant is very rare *and* very endangered, while a listing of 1B.3 indicates a plant is very rare, but *not* very endangered. Note that all List 1A (presumed extinct in California) and some CNDDB's state rank (S-rank). The online edition of the *Inventory* (www.cnps.org/inventory) now includes a "CA Endemic" entry for those plants that occur only in California, as well as the CNDDB's global (G) and state (S) ranks. In addition, the online *Inventory* will retain former R-E-D Code values for a few months while users get accustomed to the new system.

With these new modifications, the *Inventory* ranking system is now easier to understand, more clearly highlights the threat faced by each plant, and at-a-glance conveys more information. Most importantly, the revised CNPS ranking system now makes it easier to prioritize conservation planning.

For more detailed information on these changes, please visit the online *Inventory* (www.cnps.org/inventory) or CNPS Rare Plant Program webpage (http://www.cnps.org/programs/Rare_Plant/inventory/names.htm).

Misa Ward *is Rare Plant Botanist for CNPS.*

CNPS INVENTORY RANKING SYSTEM

To many, the previous method of indicating endangerment—the "E" of the R-E-D code—was confusing, because lower-numbered CNPS Lists contained plants of greatest concern, whereas higher-numbered R-E-D code values indicated plants of greatest concern. The new threat code extensions eliminate this contradiction.

CNPS LISTS

List 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California

List 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

List 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

List 3: Plants about which we need more information—a review list

List 4: Plants of limited distribution—a watch list

FORMER R-E-D CODE

R = rarity; E = endangerment;
D = distribution

THE E VALUES:

1 - not very endangered in California
2 - fairly endangered in California
3 - seriously endangered in California

NEW THREAT CODE "EXTENSIONS" APPENDED TO CNPS LISTS

(The inverse of and replacement for E values in the former R-E-D Code)
.1 - seriously endangered in California
.2 - fairly endangered in California
.3 - not very endangered in California

Native Gardening in Season

Wildflowers In Your Garden

BY BARBARA EISENSTEIN

...Something in us that requires the gladdening of spring in order to cheerfully accommodate the quiet of our rainless California summers.

—Judith Larner Lowry,
Gardening with a Wild Heart

It's spring and although we don't rejoice in quite the way they do in Minnesota when the daffodils peek through the snow, the early wildflowers are accompanied by excitement and anticipation. As horticultural outreach coordinator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, I can be sure there will be a flurry of calls asking where are the best wildflower displays. I'd like to tell my callers to come to my home garden in Southern California, or better yet, recreate a wildflower display in their own gardens.

Creating a wildflower display in a home garden begins in the spring, with viewing wildflowers in nature, preferably as close to home as possible. Follow this up with visits to botanic gardens and parks. Start to learn the names of the wildflowers you love. Take pictures so that when you are ready to sow the seeds in late fall through winter—right before it rains is best—you will have a clear image of nature at its finest. For more information on starting an annual wildflower garden, consult *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, and Bart O'Brien.

Barbara Eisenstein

California poppy (Eschscholzia californica) *growing with bird's eye gilia* (Gilia tricolor) *in author's native garden in South Pasadena, California.*

If you have already been down this path and have wildflowers in your garden, there are ways to extend the exuberant colors well into the summer. Remove spent flowers (deadhead) and irrigate in the spring to keep your annuals going. Remember to allow some flowers to go to seed to feed the birds and provide you with next year's crop of wildflowers. Seeds collected in the spring and summer can be sown during the rainy season, or those left in the garden may seed naturally. Seeds will rot in gardens that receive summer irrigation, so be sure to save a bunch if you plan to continue watering.

Cut back poppies nearly to the ground after they bloom for a second or even third flush of flowers. Although the peak of the poppy display in my garden occurs in late March to early April, there are blooms throughout most of the year. Clarkias can also be cut back to extend the bloom period. Cut below the lowest flower and be sure to do this before they have gone to seed.

Try sowing seeds into the spring. Poppies, clarkias, and phacelias will often continue performing if they get enough water to germinate and grow.

Select some late bloomers. Tarweed (*Madia elegans* ssp. *elegans*), grand linanthus (*Linanthus grandiflorus*), sunflower (*Helianthus annuus),* farewell to spring (*Clarkia amoena*), and elegant clarkia (*Clarkia unguicularis*) start late, but continue into summer.

Home gardens, being small and contained, will never replace the splendor of the massive floral displays of California's hillsides and valleys, but seeing the wildflowers every day when leaving for work and returning home has its own special rewards.

Barbara Eisenstein *is horticultural outreach coordinator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California.*

Barbara Eisenstein

Farewell-to-spring (Clarkia amoena) *blooming in late July at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.*

CORRECTION

The "Native Gardening in Season" article that appeared on page 7 of the last issue of the *CNPS Bulletin* (Volume 36, Number 1) was written by Agi Kehoe, and not by Abbie Blair. Apologies to Agi, who is a member of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS, and a professional garden designer and maintenance consultant specializing in California native plants.

Call for Volunteers

The CNPS Vegetation Program is seeking volunteers or interns to help revise the *Manual of California Vegetation.* We're looking for detail-oriented individuals to add bibliographic citations to the database and to research life history and disturbance information for vegetation types.

Julie Evens

If you can help with this monumental state vegetation project, please contact Julie Evens, senior vegetation ecologist (jevens@cnps.org; 916-327-0714).

CNPS Bulletin Welcomes Your Ideas!

The *CNPS Bulletin* wants to publicize what is going on in your chapter! Are you doing something you consider newsworthy? Do you have a success story that may inspire others, or lessons to share from a past project?

Whether your article idea concerns education and outreach, conservation and preservation, rare plants and plant communities, public policy, legislation, fieldtrips, fundraising, publications—you name it—describe it in a few sentences and email it to cnpsbulletin@comcast.net. Also tell us if it is for a possible news brief (about 150–200 words) or a feature-length article (averaging 500 words), and whether you have photos to accompany it. *CNPS Bulletin* editor Bob Hass will then contact you to discuss how your idea might be expanded into an engaging article.

All chapters, both small and large, have news and stories worth sharing with others. You are encouraged to send in your ideas at any time.

Chapter Council Meetings for 2006

June 2–4, Ridgecrest. Horticulture
September 8–10, Arcata. Conservation
December 8–10, East Bay. Rare Plants and Vegetation

All members are welcome to attend. Find out what exciting work chapters and state staff and committees are doing. Social time, a Saturday dinner, hikes, and much more are planned for each weekend. The state CNPS website, www.cnps.org, will have details.

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