



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BULLETIN

In Search of California Wildflowers

Something—I suppose it is really just plain curiosity—thrusts me off my hillside early every spring, after a winter which was to have been so nice and long and which has turned out to be so desperately short. In February, just when my own garden is beginning to look its prettiest, off I go again chasing flowers, wandering all over California and not coming home to stay until late in the autumn.

—Lester Rowntree, *Flowering Shrubs of California and Their Value to the Gardener* (1948)

BY BARBARA EISENSTEIN

Though most of us do not abandon all responsibilities for months at a time to drive, walk, and ride a burro through the mountains, valleys, and deserts of California, as Lester Rowntree did, the attraction of spring wildflowers sends many out into our ever diminishing wildlands.

Finding wildflower sites has become something of a sport. Information is shared on hotlines and websites. (For a list, go to www.rsabg.org.) *California's Wild Gardens, A Guide to Favorite Botanical Sites*, edited by Phyllis Faber, is another excellent source of outstanding wildflower sites.

In this article, five leading California native plant aficionados share their favorite wildflower places not listed in Faber's book. Their descriptions convey a love and appreciation of California's native flora.

FAVORITE PLACES

STEVE BOYD, RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN:

There are many places that qualify, but two of particular interest are **Harford Springs County Park** in the Gavilan Hills, western Riverside County, and **Liebre Mountains**, particularly the



Spectacular flaming fields of annual wildflowers in Antelope Valley, following the March miracle rains of 1991. Flowers include: California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*)—orange, desert coreopsis (*Coreopsis bigelovii*)—yellow, and globe gilia (*Gilia capitata*)—blue. Photo: Bart O'Brien

southern flank and the crest of Liebre Mountain.

Harford Springs County Park is most easily accessed off Gavilan Road from Cajalco Expressway. However, the best

wildflowers are at the southern end of the park, and up through the center among stands of unique and threatened cismontane juniper woodland.

In the south one finds *Fritillaria biflora*, *Zigadenus fremontii*, *Sanicula bipinnatifida*, *Lomatium dasycarpum*, *Lasthenia coronaria*, *Leptosiphon dianthiflora*, *Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longispina*, *Delphinium parryi*, and most special, *Allium munzii* (Munz's onion), a Riverside County endemic, and a federal and state listed endangered species. The juniper woodlands have many annuals including *Camissonia bistorta*, *C. graciliflora*, and *Leptosiphon lemmonii*.

Liebre Mountain is a long ridge situated between Santa Clarita and Valencia on the south, I5 on the west, and the westernmost end of the Antelope Valley/Mojave Desert on the north. In addition to masses of California poppies, one can see huge stands of *Coreopsis bigelovii*, *Salvia columbariae*, *Salvia carduacea*, *Layia glandulosa*, *Plagiobothrys nothofulvus*, and *Amsinckia menziesii*, as well as perennial lupines and other goodies.

STEVE EDWARDS, REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN:

Two great wildflower spots are in the **San Antonio Valley**. The first, in Santa Clara County behind Mt. Hamilton, in good years has the best displays of field wildflowers in the nine bay area counties. The fields vary tremendously and unpredictably in species composition from season to season, so one can never say, "I've seen it." There are many rare and endangered plants close to the roads leading away from

(continued on page 6)



Jeffrey Jorgenson

From the Executive Director: A More Strategic Approach to Conservation

In the process of revising and updating the scope of the CNPS Conservation Program, I realized that CNPS now needs a more strategic approach to its conservation efforts. We need to identify key habitats and priority areas, integrate our programs better, strengthen collaboration between state CNPS programs and the chapters, foster collaboration among chapters, and establish strategic partnerships with other institutions. This synergy will increase our ability statewide to conserve native plants and their ecosystems.

We know that a large proportion of land management decisions are made by local governments in response to their individual needs and resources. Unfortunately, many

of these decisions are made without good plant science and effective conservation planning at the state and regional levels. As a result, the needs of unique habitats and species that often define California's natural environments are not adequately considered.

Science-based conservation planning at a regional scale is essential to promote land-use policies that protect native species and natural ecosystems. Developing tools and information to assist our volunteer base to participate in regional planning at the local level was one of the priorities identified during the visioning effort undertaken by the Conservation Program in 2004–2005. Our focus on regional planning at the

2006 Conservation Conference was our first step in addressing this priority.

As we continue to develop ways to increase the skills of our volunteers, the Conservation Program is identifying regional priorities on which to focus our research and conservation actions. The conservation of vernal pool systems and grasslands is one area to which we have turned our attention. In doing so, our intention is to engage in conservation planning in these critical habitats and develop strategic alliances with other institutions. Such actions will help us be more effective in the long-term. ♣

Amanda Jorgenson
Executive Director

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Sierra Nevada Victory!

The Cottonwood Project on the Tahoe National Forest and the Larson Project on the Stanislaus National Forest (see *CNPS Bulletin*, Vol. 35, No. 4, p. 5) are currently on hold, thanks to a recent court ruling that will affect Forest Service proposals throughout the Sierra Nevada. The two projects were the object of lawsuits brought by a broad coalition of conservation partners throughout the state, including CNPS.

At issue is the widespread spraying of herbicides to kill native post-fire plant communities, in order to hasten the growth of commercial timber. At least six different rare species of wildflowers (CNPS List 1B) occur in the projects, which together cover 18,000 acres of public lands.

In June, the Forest Service requested that the court hold both projects in abeyance pending the outcome of a Ninth Circuit appeals court review of another case, brought by Earth Island Institute and the Center for Biological Diversity. In that case, the Forest Service had failed to comply with the requirements of the Sierra Framework forest plan, which requires regular population monitoring of key species, called “management indicator species” (MIS), a practice CNPS strongly supports. This was also a significant issue in the Cottonwood and Larson cases.

We applaud the court's decision and celebrate this victory—and the protection of these beautiful and biologically rich native forest lands. ♣

Vivian Parker, Conservation Coordinator
Sierra Nevada National Forests



Vivian Parker

Sierra Valley ivesia (*Ivesia aperta* var. *aperta*), a CNPS 1B wildflower, occurs in the Cottonwood Project area in the Tahoe National Forest.



Cattie Bishop

Guest Editorial

Chapter Council Plays Key Role in CNPS

The CNPS Chapter Council represents the chapters and members in CNPS, and provides overall direction for our organization. The council includes one delegate from each chapter, plus the chair, vice-chair, secretary, and two representatives to the CNPS Board of Directors. It elects the board, amends the bylaws of the Society, and develops policies and priorities that relate to plants. (Issues related to personnel and finance are handled by the board.) Very importantly, the council is the forum that enables and encourages sharing and interaction between chapters.

Those of you who have been to quar-

terly Chapter Council meetings know that the day is long and the agenda very full, because that's when the Council handles most of its work. Deliberations can be time-consuming and ponderous. But that is the nature of democracy within CNPS. True democracy is never tidy and rarely efficient, but more important than "expedience" is that it be diverse, representative, and therefore healthy.

Currently the Chapter Council has been considering four major issues, including a policy on how herbicides should be used, hosting a major scientific conference, initiatives to encourage interest in botany education and careers, and training programs for botany practitioners. Future subjects are likely to include a

policy on GMOs, prioritizing conservation needs in California, and whatever other issues chapters or individuals may bring to the council for consideration.

All members of CNPS are welcome to participate in Chapter Council meetings. Only delegates can vote, but any member can enrich and influence the discussion. Those present become engrossed in and benefit from the good conversations, and the sharing of information and materials. The people who take part are caring, the issues are interesting, and the meetings provide numerous opportunities to learn and to contribute. We welcome your future participation. (*Next Meeting: Mar. 10, Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Garden.*) 🌿

Jim Bishop, Chair, Chapter Council

Conservation Conference Empowers Attendees

Over 60 participants attended this year's CNPS conservation conference in Arcata. The conference focused on regional conservation planning and how CNPS can more effectively participate in various efforts, including county General Plan Updates, Natural Communities Conservation Plans (NCCPs), and Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs).

Amanda Jorgensen began the day with an overview of Conservation Program goals for the coming year and emphasized the importance of thinking strategically about the conservation actions we undertake. Next, Sue Britting provided an overview of regional planning, followed by a review from Carol Witham of tools available on the state CNPS website (www.cnps.org) to help with conservation planning. Carol also talked about the use of vegetation analysis in regional planning, and provided practical illustrations of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to improve plant

conservation. Gordon Leppig discussed locally rare plants, their significance, and how they can be protected.

Many counties across the state are in the process of updating their General Plans or will be in the near future. Keith Wagner reviewed the General Plan Update process, which guides land-use policy decisions, including issues related to development, open space, and natural resource use and conservation. Many chapters have spent

hundreds of volunteer hours working on general plans (or will soon), and Keith's information-packed sessions had many of us scribbling wildly.

Sarah Christie and Peter Douglas of the California Coastal Commission provided an overview of coastal zone protections, applicable to coastal resources in 15 chapters' regions. In addition, legislative consultant Vern Goehring led a discussion of legislative strategies for the coming year. 🌿

Jen Kalt, Conservation Chair
North Coast Chapter



Amanda Jorgensen

Regional conservation planning was the theme of this year's conservation conference.



CHAPTER NEWS



KERN COUNTY CHAPTER:

Inspirational Landscaping Workshop Enhances Plant Sale

Flyers, announcements, and newsletter articles are not the only ways to attract gardeners to a CNPS plant sale. This year approximately one month before our chapter's October plant sale, we



Debby Kroeger

After the workshop, participants toured CALM's botanic gardens to see natural community groupings of native plants. Pictured is silver bush lupine (*Lupinus al-bifrons*, front), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*, middle), and Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*, back).

held a Landscape Design Workshop. Its purpose was to prepare prospective native plant buyers for the sale.

At the workshop, participants learned how to assess their yard for the proper selection of California native plants. More than 40 "backyard" gardeners and native plant enthusiasts listened and learned as

Linda Bliss, local freelance landscape architect and CNPS member, guided them, step-by-step, through a site evaluation. Linda's outline included soil and water testing, sun and wind exposure, and considerations for backyard use by children, friends, and pets.

A discussion about fire areas and borrowed landscapes (areas outside one's garden that are "exploited" to enhance its visual appeal) held particular interest for participants due to wildfires raging just to the south. Linda's explanation of scientific names helped attendees learn how to read and understand plant labels. The workshop continued twice as long as scheduled in order to accommodate participants' questions.

Armed with graph paper, new insights, plus book and website resources, participants left inspired and ready to prepare a site plan for their garden areas. And when they showed up at our plant sale, most knew precisely what plants they wanted to purchase. The fact that our sale was held at the beautiful California Living Museum (CALM) Botanic Garden proved an added bonus for buyers. ♣

Debby Kroeger

Vice President, Kern County Chapter

EL DORADO CHAPTER:

An Innovative Approach to Chapter Hikes

This past summer, the El Dorado Chapter partnered with the U.S. Forest Service to offer a series of hikes at Wright's Lake, a popular camping area in the Eldorado National Forest.

In spite of a robust summer field trip schedule, recent participation in chapter outings had become static. Was there a way to share our native flora with a new audience?

Wright's Lake offered the perfect combination of nature-loving campers and a diverse, showy flora. Nestled in a red fir-lodgepole forest at 7,000 feet, the lake features a variety of plant habitats, a complex of hiking trails, and a tranquil setting. All that was required organizationally was to set up and publicize the weekend hikes, and an El Dorado Chapter volunteer to lead them.

The hikes were scheduled for 10 am each Saturday beginning July 1, and ran for consecutive Saturdays through August 12, or the length of the flowering season. A central meeting point, one easily reached on foot, was designated, and a Forest Service interpreter publicized the hikes on campground kiosks. The strategy was to keep the hikes to one hour, keep the route short and easy, and to gear the presentation to the layman, utilizing common plant names whenever possible.

Attendance exceeded expectations, averaging 15 participants per hike. Attendees often lingered longer than the



Rich Wade

The East Meadow at Wright's Lake, site of a series of CNPS summer plant hikes.

allotted hour, enjoying the floral display. With over 100 people introduced to the lake's flora and to the CNPS message, this effort to reach a new audience was an undeniable success. ♣

Rich Wade, Publicity Chair
El Dorado Chapter

Ways to Increase CNPS Membership

CNPS is in the midst of a year-long drive to increase our membership by 20%. I'm passing along these ideas from the September 2006 Chapter Council meeting in the hope that you will want to get involved and make this campaign a success.



Marcy Niles

San Luis Obispo's annual "Fungal Foray" field trip (led by David Krause). The chapter has found that an opportune time to promote CNPS membership is when people are having fun.

Field trips. San Diego offers some "out-reach" field trips (no scientific names are used) as a perk of membership. Milo Baker gave a field trip for the Audubon Society and used it to bring in new members. San Luis Obispo has, in the past, taken membership pamphlets along on chapter field trips and collected checks on the spot.

Special Events. East Bay conducted a weekend "Native Plant Fair" last October. The event allowed more contact with the public than a frenzied plant sale, and included speakers, cards, books, and other plant-related items, and activities for kids. Shasta held a "Bring a Friend" potluck that included wine and olive oil tastings.

Discounts! Sometimes getting a deal will make the sale. Many chapters offer 20% discounts on the beautiful new

Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plants to new members (most of the book is applicable anywhere).

Reach Out. A Milo Baker member is an Earthshare representative, and visits various companies to promote this umbrella charity. This also gives her the opportunity to speak about CNPS, yielding both new members and donations.

Lapsed Members. A personal phone call from a local member can be more effective than a mailing from the State office. We all need to make the effort to let every member know they are valued and needed.

Native plants are more popular than ever. CNPS has a great reputation. There is no good reason why our membership levels have stagnated. We all need to work together in creative ways to invite new people into our family. 🌿

Dave Flietner

Member, CNPS Board of Directors

In Appreciation: Carlyn Halde Keeping tomorrow's grandchildren in mind

Some of you, particularly those in the Yerba Buena Chapter, may know Carlyn Halde, who is a long-time member and strong supporter of CNPS. I had the pleasure of meeting Carlyn this past fall.

She told me that she has loved native plants since she was a little girl, and fondly recalls "nearly 80 years ago being taken for drives along miles of blue and golden hills." She said she hopes that our grandchildren's children also have the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate California's native flora.

To that end, Carlyn has decided to make an everlasting contribution to CNPS by including the Society in her will. She hopes others will follow her example.

BEQUESTS ARE EASY TO ARRANGE

Bequests from wills and living trusts, as well as major gifts, are significant sources of support for CNPS. Bequests are also one

of the easiest gifts to arrange.

You can donate a specific sum of money, an asset, or a percentage of your estate to California Native Plant Society. You can also donate a percentage of "the rest, residue, and remainder" of your estate after first providing for your family and friends.

If you already have a will, a codicil (a brief legal supplement adding to or modifying your existing will) can be a simple way of providing a bequest without having to draft a new will.

Talk with your attorney about your desire to benefit CNPS and then let us know of your intentions. This will allow us to consider how your gift can best be used. For more information, please contact Cari Porter, CNPS Development Director, at 916-447-2677. 🌿

Amanda Jorgenson
Executive Director



Margo Bors

Carlyn Halde wants to make sure future children get to enjoy the beauty of California's natives as she did when a young girl.

In Search of California Wildflowers (from page 1)

the valley—Mt. Hamilton Road, which has several new and surprising occurrences that are under study, Mines Road, and Del Puerto Canyon Road. San Antonio Valley



All photos by Barbara Eisenstein

Spring wildflowers in the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area in San Diego County. Insets (top to bottom): Gander's pitcher sage (*Lepechinia ganderi*) and Parish's bluecurls (*Trichostema parishii*).

seems very remote, in spring idyllically so, for a place so close to Bay Area cities.

A second area in San Antonio Valley, 150 miles to the south, includes vast fields of flowers on Hunter Liggett Military Reservation between Jolon Junction and the Arroyo Seco, near Mission San Antonio, in eastern Monterey County. It's a fabulous area, with the high Santa Lucias immediately west and north, and the Arroyo Seco itself offering splendid botanizing.

JULIE EVENS, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY:

Two easily accessible locations in El Dorado County are **Carson Pass** and **Lyons Lake/Lake Sylvia**. Both of these sites have lovely fields of wildflowers intermixed with subalpine conifer stands. In July there is an assortment of yellow, white, red, and purple flowering plants, including *Eriogonum* spp., *Senecio triangularis*, *S. integerrimus*, *Poten-*

tilla spp., *Wyethia mollis*, *Ligusticum grayi*, *Veratrum californicum*, *Castilleja miniata*, *Penstemon* spp., *Lupinus breweri*, *L.*



argenteus, *L. polyphyllus*, *Aconitum columbianum*, and *Delphinium* spp.

Depending on elevation, trees may include *Pinus*



contorta murrayana, *Abies magnifica*, *Pinus monticola*, *Tsuga mertensiana*, and *Pinus*

albicaulis. Shrubs may include *Holodiscus microphyllus microphyllus*, *Phyllodoce breweri*, and *Cassiope mertensiana*.

STEVE JUNAK, SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDEN:

One of my favorite areas is **Burton Mesa**, just northeast of Lompoc. Between La Purisima Mission State Park and the Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve there are over 6,000 acres of open space to explore. These include vast areas of ancient sand dunes whose soils support a variety of annuals and perennials, many of which are endemic to the Central Coast region. Several of the common chaparral shrubs are also endemic. No matter what time of year, you can usually find something in flower. Spring wildflower displays in the openings between shrubs can be very showy, even in relatively dry years.

Santa Barbara Island, one of the most remote corners of Santa Barbara County, can have spectacular displays of giant coreopsis, goldfields, and Philbrick's island

chicory in years with sufficient rainfall. Only one square mile in size, Santa Barbara is one of the smallest islands off our coast, but is often ablaze with yellow carpets of flowers in early spring.

BART O'BRIEN, RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN:

Two radically different wildflower areas that I enjoy are **Antelope Valley** (Los Angeles and Kern counties), and **Forsellesia Canyon** on the north side of the Clark Mountains in the eastern Mojave Desert (San Bernardino County). The western end of Antelope Valley is generally at its best in April when an astonishing number of spectacular annuals and perennials bloom. What these displays may lack in diversity is overcompensated for by the eye-popping color: *Eschscholzia californica*, *Gilia latiflora* ssp. *davyi*, *Coreopsis bigelovii*, *Salvia carduacea*, *Salvia columbariae*, *Monolopia lanceolata*, *Castilleja exserta*, *Layia glandulosa*, *Linanthus dichotomus*, *Camissonia* spp., *Lasthenia* spp., *Oenothera californica*, and *Lupinus excubitus* are a few favorites. Late May and early June are the best times to visit the north side of the **Clark Mountains**. This display is rarely the visual overload of other well-known botanical hotspots, but it is always rich and rewarding, and the number of unusual (or unexpected) plants is truly amazing.

GO OUT AND EXPLORE

Just as Lester Rowntree was compelled to "chase wildflowers," many of us venture out on short or long excursions, close to home or days away, but always off the beaten path. Delighted by the exceptional beauty of our wildflowers, we must work hard to ensure that these special places are preserved for all to enjoy. 🌿

Barbara Eisenstein is horticultural outreach coordinator at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. She staffs a phone and email gardening hotline for questions on growing California native plants.

Gardening in Season

Silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*)

BY ABBIE BLAIR

Light up the short dark days of winter with *Garrya elliptica*, silk tassel. Plant one center-stage and watch it shower the winter garden with an elegant cascade of white catkin-like flowers. A daily dose of its beauty is the perfect tonic for the winter blahs.

This winter wonder works well in most growing situations and is easy to care for. It thrives in mild coastal climates. Protect it in hotter climates by planting in partial or full shade and applying moderate summer irrigation. Heat and drying winds of inland areas can cause stress, leaving it susceptible to disease including *Botryosphaeria ribis*, manzanita branch dieback.

Silk tassel makes a beautiful presentation with minimal care. Allow it to grow freely to produce a casual look by shearing annually to remove dead leaves. For a tailored look, prune to form hedges or mani-



The elegant cascading flowers of *Garrya elliptica* add excitement to the winter garden. Pictured here is the cultivar 'James Roof'. Inset: Close-up of *Garrya elliptica*. Copyright © 1995 Saint Mary's College of California.

cure it into an espaliered form. Remove spent blooms and prune immediately after flowering.

Compliment silk tassel with other early blooming shrubs including currants and manzanitas. Offset the dormant cycle of deciduous shrubs like spice bush and western azalea with its evergreen foliage. Plant herbaceous perennials such as

sticky monkeyflower and Douglas iris at its feet. Consider giant chain fern, coffee berry, and bush anemone as other planting companions.

The males of dioecious silk tassel give the most spectacular show. Two popular male clone cultivars are 'James Roof' and 'Evie'. Both bloom profusely, tolerate full sun to full shade, and benefit from summer irrigation. 'James Roof' is larger, growing up to 15 feet, spreading to 8 feet, and is known for its foot-long catkins. 'Evie' is more compact, topping out at 10 feet with shorter tassels.

Females planted along with a male produce interesting grape-like purple clusters of summer fruit.

[Note: Plant CA natives wisely. Protect rare and endangered species and preserve gene pool integrity by using locally grown species in the landscape. Avoid invasive plants whether native or introduced. <http://www.cnps.org/archives/landscaping.htm>]

Abbie Blair is a horticulturist, garden writer, and lives in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Horticulture questions? Send them to abbieblair@baymoon.com.

Ask the Gardener

Q: Does plant quality matter?

Healthy, vigorous plants are easily established, perform better, and live longer. Select a plant with a nice shape and that is well proportioned for its container. Foliage should be healthy with good leaf growth, and of the appropriate color for the time of year. Avoid plants with broken or weak stems, or that show signs of damage caused by insects or disease. Look for well-rooted plants with roots that reach the sides of the container and hold the soil ball intact. Pass up root-bound plants that have roots climbing out of the top of the pot or escaping out of drainage holes. 🌱

Winter Garden Calendar

- Plant native plants.
- Water young and unestablished plants if rain is scarce.
- Refresh mulch.
- Monitor slugs and snails.
- Divide clumping perennials while dormant.
- Remove old fern fronds.
- Prune selectively, checking for specific species requirements.
- Clean and sharpen tools.
- Put out bird and bee houses. 🐝

Salvaging Baja Birdbush

Triple Border Fence damages rare plant population

BY DAVE FLIETNER

Cindy Burrascano was looking forward to a pleasant Labor Day weekend until she checked her voice mail and heard a message that made her want to cry. The Baja birdbush (*Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia*) she had worked for years to protect were going to be removed so construction of the Triple Border Fence (essentially a wall) along the U.S.-Mexican border could begin. Half of the only population of this evergreen shrub in the U.S., situated on a hillside a couple of miles from the Pacific Ocean, would shortly be replaced with a 130-foot wide gash in the landscape.

Back in 1999, Cindy, San Diego Chapter conservation chair, had conducted the research needed to petition the state to list this evergreen shrub as endangered. Finally, two years later, she succeeded. But as U.S. Congressman Duncan Hunter's (R-El Cajon) proposal for a massive border fence project moved forward, it didn't seem to matter that a listed species was located in the project area.

CNPS joined a lawsuit contesting the adequacy of the project's Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) and was vindicated when the Coastal Commission refused to permit the project in 2004. It looked like a compromise might be possible. But then Congress passed the "Real ID Act of 2005" that waived any law that stood in the way of the border fence. The lawsuit was reactivated but was defeated.

The situation was dire. The weak mitigation plan that had been proposed in the EIS was forgotten after the new law was passed. But county park officials where the birdbush grew indicated it could be used to revegetate roads they intended to close, and the nearby state park offered to hold the plants if CNPS could provide the labor to move them. The parched end of the summer was the worst possible time of year to transplant anything, and there were only a few days to organize an effort.

Faced with only a slim possibility of success, Cindy posted a plea for help to her chapter's listserv. On Tuesday and Wednesday morning, 12 volunteers showed up to do what they could. They had their work cut out for them. Water had to be brought to the plants. Branches needed to be pruned. As volunteers



Mike Evans

Baja birdbush in bloom. Photo courtesy of Tree of Life Nursery.

attempted to dig up the plants, the dry, rocky soil frequently fell away, exposing the roots. For the next two days the volunteers and a skillful equipment operator made their last-ditch effort.

About 70 plants were placed in an area adjacent to the project area. How many will survive remains to be seen. However, a hopeful sign is that since they were transplanted, some were observed sprouting leaves.

Ironically, nearby Borderfield State Park was established as a place of peace and friendship, where citizens of the U.S. and Mexico could picnic together on a beautiful mesa overlooking the Pacific Ocean. That vision is long gone, replaced by a jingoism that now includes native plants among its victims. 🌿

Dave Flietner works as a biological consultant, and is a member of the San Diego Chapter.

Dues ... Why Higher?

In 2006 the CNPS Board of Directors decided to increase membership dues in order to be able to continue funding the organization's key programs, including plant science, conservation advocacy, and public education. Membership dues are also used to increase the effectiveness of the work undertaken by volunteers at CNPS' 32 local chapters. Currently membership dues comprise the largest income source for CNPS; however, work to secure increased funding from other sources is also moving forward.

CNPS is unique in its strongly science-based approach and focus on native plants, an approach that requires supporting strong programs to benefit our cause and facilitate chapter work. As development pressures increase throughout the state, the work CNPS does becomes even more important. Your support is critical and we thank you for it. 🌿

Jim Bishop
Chair, Chapter Council



Catie Bishop

CNPS operates important programs that further our overall mission and also support members at the chapter level. Here Julie Evens of the Vegetation Program provides field training in identifying and mapping vegetation types, information that guides CNPS in its conservation efforts. Your membership dues are an important part of what it takes to support all that CNPS does.