



# CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY BULLETIN

## A Victory for Vernal Pools

BY CAROL WITHAM

Vernal pools are highly specialized seasonal wetlands restricted almost entirely to California. They are home to nearly 100 narrowly endemic plant species, 11 of which are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. CNPS has had a long history of recognizing the uniqueness and imperilment of this ecosystem. Back in October 1976 the Society published its first of several issues of *Fremontia* devoted entirely to the subject of vernal pools. CNPS has continued to devote considerable efforts to vernal pool conservation in the intervening 30 years through education and advocacy.

On November 2, 2006, U.S. District Court Judge William B. Shubb issued a major ruling overturning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) 2005 decision to exclude 900,000 acres in 11 California counties from its final rule designating critical habitat for 11 vernal pool plants and 4 vernal pool crustaceans. The court agreed that FWS failed to consider how this exclusion, based purely on economic factors, might affect the future recovery of the vernal pool species.

Judge Shubb also rejected the attempt by the building industry to overturn the protection for more than 800,000 acres that were designated as critical habitat. Ironically, the court did agree with the building industry that the FWS failed to explain adequately why it excluded UC Merced and Highway 99 in Tehama County from areas it had designated as critical habitat, and concluded that these exclusions were illegal. The FWS

*(continued on page 6)*



Flowering vernal pool at Mather Field in Sacramento County. Inset: Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp, one of the four threatened and endangered crustaceans involved in this court ruling.

David King; Inset: Larry Serpa

## How CNPS is Fighting Invasive Plants

BY BOB CASE, DON MAYALL, AND JAKE SIGG

While most CNPS members are aware that invasive plants are displacing native plants at an alarming rate, often surreptitiously, not all understand the magnitude of the problem. Fewer still know that state CNPS has an Invasive Exotics Committee which is working to educate members about the threat invasives pose and to help chapters increase actions to combat them.

Over the past two years, members of our committee have made over a dozen presentations to chapters on invasives, and our offer to speak on this topic is open to all chapters. CNPS members can play an important role in early detection, which is the single most cost-effective method to fight invasives. On chapter field trips or at other venues, an eagle-eyed native plant lover can often spot an early infestation. New occurrences of invasive plants should be reported to your local Weed Management Area (WMA) partners and county agricultural commissioner.

WMAs are loose, cooperative bodies of public and private landowners and other stakeholders—typically organized through agricultural commissioners' offices—who work together on invasive plant management. Each WMA develops a strategic plan that identifies top priorities for local management, including education, mapping, and control projects. Many CNPS chap-

*(continued on page 6)*



Jeffrey Jorgenson

## From the Executive Director: At Its Core, CNPS Is Really About Caring

On the evening of December 9, a group of CNPS members gathered at the Berkeley Faculty Club to celebrate another year of accomplishments and to honor our volunteers, Fellows, and donors. Since not everyone attended this special event, I would like to take this opportunity to again thank each and every one of you for your efforts and accomplishments.

CNPS is about people who are concerned with maintaining and enjoying the unique plant diversity of California. CNPS members help to promote the mission of the Society by renewing their memberships, sharing their expertise and donating time to chapter work, or mak-

ing financial contributions to the Society. CNPS would not exist today if it were not for this grassroots support.

Thanks to all its supporters, CNPS has become one of the strongest advocates for native plant conservation in California today. CNPS volunteers make plant conservation happen on the ground, either by educating the public about the importance and beauty of native plants, or by providing relevant scientific information to agencies and land-use planners so they will make better land management decisions.

Our members and donors who provide significant financial resources are espe-

cially important to native plant conservation. To recognize their generosity, the CNPS Board of Directors has created two new societies: The *Donor Circle* and the *Legacy Circle*. The *Donor Circle* honors individuals who have contributed \$25,000 or more over the past 10 years, while the *Legacy Circle* honors those individuals who have informed us that they have included CNPS in their estate plans. CNPS inaugurated these two societies during its annual banquet, and in the presence of many of our *Circle* members. ♻

**Amanda Jorgenson**  
Executive Director

## Thanks to Sandy McCoy A Hard Act to Follow

For the past seven years, CNPS has had the good fortune to have Sandy McCoy serve on its board of directors. With a degree in law and a passion for botany, Sandy first helped out at the state organization by serving as legal advisor and coordinating our environmental litigation program. It was not long before Sandy was lured into a more formal leadership role on the state board.

Serving in 2001 as vice-president of development, and since 2002 as vice-president of the board of directors, Sandy oversaw CNPS elections, helped to recruit future leaders for the CNPS board, and worked to expand the CNPS fundraising program. Sandy has also led several behind-the-scenes projects such as the recent revision of the membership brochure. We can thank Sandy for assembling a team of folks who created an attractive and engaging brochure that promotes the activities we care so much about.

Although Sandy is taking a break from board service, he is not going far. He plans to devote his time to development and fundraising, and specifically to help increase and diversify the resources flowing to CNPS. We owe Sandy a hearty thank you for all that he has done to support CNPS and California's extraordinary flora. ♻

**Sue Britting**, Vice-President  
CNPS Board of Directors



Natasha Beery

**Sandy McCoy is stepping down from the CNPS Board of Directors to devote more time to helping CNPS diversify its funding base.**

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Amanda Jorgenson, Executive Director

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2007

Brad Jenkins, President  
Sue Britting, Vice President  
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### CNPS BULLETIN

Bob Hass, Editor  
Lisa Roth, Design  
Ileene Anderson, Sue Britting,  
Arvind Kumar, Proofreaders

## Acknowledging Staff

During the December Chapter Council meeting we had the pleasure to acknowledge members of our program and administrative staff for their outstanding work in 2006.

**Cari Porter-Hansen**, finance manager/development director, worked diligently to perfect and streamline CNPS financial and management procedures. We greatly appreciate her professionalism and commitment to CNPS.

**Anne Klein**, vegetation ecologist, is an excellent project coordinator and field supervisor. Thanks to Anne's coordination and communication skills, CNPS has successfully implemented the Sierra Nevada Foothills Project, which included the completion of more than 950 field surveys.

**Josie Crawford**, training coordinator, was also essential to the successful implementation of the training component of the Sierra Nevada Foothills Project.

Thanks to her efforts, CNPS provided 14 professional training workshops to promote plant science education.

Those of you who know **Julie Evens**, senior ecologist, are well aware of her un-

flagging enthusiasm and commitment to CNPS. Julie's leadership and coordination skills have been vital to achieving the goals of the Vegetation Program and expanding its potential. 🌱

**Amanda Jorgenson**  
Executive Director



Left to right: Cari Porter-Hansen, Ann Klein, Josie Crawford, and Julie Evens.

Amanda Jorgenson

## Back Issues to be Available Online

The full run of back issues of *Fremontia* starting in 1973 and the *CNPS Bulletin* starting in 1965 are being scanned at the Jepson Herbarium for access online as PDF files through the DocuBase service of the Berkeley Natural History Museums. By the time you read this newsletter, we hope to have most issues of both publications available, with search capabilities for finding issues that mention particular words or species.

The plan is to have full access through the CNPS website for issues up to 2001. You can see what has been done by going to <http://docubase.berkeley.edu> on the Web. Select "Search the collections," then choose "Fremontia" or "CNPS Bulletin" in the drop-down box, and click on the Search button.

Thanks to Chris Meacham of the Herbarium for making this happen, and to Linda Vorobik for securing Chris' help with this important project. 🌱

## Board Candidates Sought

CNPS encourages everyone who wishes to make a contribution to the Society to consider service on the CNPS State Board. This spring and summer, the Leadership Development Committee will be recruiting candidates for the State Board and for officers of the Chapter Council for terms starting in January 2008.

Service on the State Board presents an opportunity to use your skills to help conserve California's natural environment. The work of the board is essential to the success of CNPS's programs in conservation, horticulture, and plant science, and to the work of the CNPS chapters. Being a board member is also an intensely rewarding experience.

The CNPS State Board is open to any member of CNPS. At this time we are particularly looking for new members with expertise in finance, management, and development.

Currently two director seats are vacant. Interested CNPS members should contact Sandy McCoy, 510-981-1991, [sandymccoy@mindspring.com](mailto:sandymccoy@mindspring.com); or Sue Britting (2007 committee chair), 530-295-8210, [britting@earthlink.net](mailto:britting@earthlink.net). Vacant seats can be filled by a vote of the Chapter Council at any meeting. 🌱

**Sandy McCoy**, Outgoing Chair  
CNPS Leadership Development Committee



# CHAPTER NEWS



## ALTA PEAK CHAPTER:

### Tying In Gardening Program to Plant Sale

Since the Alta Peak Chapter was organized 16 years ago, we have offered a free public program in the community of Three Rivers several weeks before our annual October plant sale. This fall evening is well publicized, well attended, and a valuable introduction to CNPS in the area. In 2006, a panel of four local experts brought different kinds of experiences and perspectives to the program.

Pam Clark, from Porterville, delights in a “working garden,” one that provides food, home remedies, and bee forage, with an old valley oak as the centerpiece. Linda Franson is a driving force in the community for utilizing and showcasing natural landscaping in public places, as well as in her residential garden. Melanie Baer-Keeley has for many years written and taught about native plants, as well as how to use them in landscaping

projects. Master gardener Cathy Capone became fascinated with native plants, and recently began a small nursery (in her large backyard) to propagate species needed for mitigation/restoration projects.

Following presentations by each of the panelists, the meeting was opened up to a question-and-answer session and general discussion. Among audience members who shared ideas was a ceanothus expert, the director of a local charter school, and a recent arrival from Pasadena who was now trying to garden in a foothill property. The panel was a success, as we saw many of the attendees at our plant sale the following week, and it attracted new members to our chapter. ♻️

Joan Stewart, President  
Alta Peak Chapter

## SEQUOIA CHAPTER: Adopting a Park

Several years ago our small chapter took on a big project—an overgrazed Fresno County undeveloped park with 120 acres of valley oak woodland. We had a hard time starting, but conservation chair Jeanne Larson, who had done early legwork in the 1990s, never gave up, and eventually a subcommittee formed to plan an interpretive trail and some restoration work.

In 2003 we attacked the park's infestation of yellow star thistle (YST), and with the help of neigh-

bors (and their cattle) began mowing, and later, spring grazing. In 2004 we laid out the trail with 13 “stations,” and our best botanists began work on a brochure. We pulled together their writing, and newsletter editor Thelma Valdez helped with editing and illustrating. On Earth day in 2005 we officially opened the trail to the public, with a local fourth grader cutting the ribbon.

The project hasn't generated the public interest we'd hoped for, nor has it rejuvenated the chapter by attracting numerous young members. A faithful few, however, show up to string barbed wire and pull weeds. Our brochures disappear, and occasionally a teacher brings a class for a field trip.

We've made inroads on the YST, but none on other weeds that have invaded the park. So while we realize the park will never be perfectly restored nor the public fully educated, still we're proud of what we've accomplished. ♻️

Warren Shaw, Education Cochair  
Sequoia Chapter



Thelma Valdez

Oaks along the new interpretive trail created by chapter volunteers.

# Volunteer Service Awards

CNPS regularly recognizes members for outstanding contributions to the preservation and appreciation of California's native flora. Featured here are recent recipients of the organization's Volunteer Recognition Award. CNPS is grateful for all they have done.

**Sue Bainbridge**, who has served as the East Bay Chapter's Vegetation Committee Chair for many years, has meticulously studied and championed the development of a vegetation community inventory, and monitored some of the area's rarest plant populations. She has kept an eye on the Highway 4 population of the federally endangered Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjungens*), making meaningful observations about grazing treatments and its population dynamics.



**Fred Roberts**

**Dave Bramlet**, Orange County rare plant co-coordinator, and **Fred Roberts**, rare plant chair for the San Diego Chapter, rare plant coordinator for the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter,

and rare plant co-coordinator for the Orange County Chapter, have spent uncounted hours in peer review comments on critical habitat proposals and economic analyses, and provided cogent comments to the Fish and Wildlife Service at their own expense on critical habitat. They have also provided comments on proposed plant conservation strategies for the West Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, and important additions to CNPS's comments on management issues for the four Southern California National Forests.

**Brian LeNeve**, Monterey Chapter vice-president, has been the point person for CNPS's lawsuit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for their failure to protect San Benito evening primrose (*Camissonia benitensis*) and their failure to regulate the intrusion of off-road vehicles onto the rare plant communities in the Clear Creek Man-

agement Area. He has stalwartly monitored trespass, assisted the BLM with monitoring and fence repairs, and attended numerous court hearings and submitted multiple declarations for the judicial process. In addition, he has gotten his local federal representative (Sam Farr) involved and given him tours of the Clear Creek Management Area.

**Alison Shilling**, conservation chair for the Riverside-San Bernardino Chapter, has been a tireless conservation advocate for her chapter. She first worked on the West Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), and since then has participated in the San Jacinto River Council to protect a suite of listed endangered and threatened plants, the West Riverside MSHCP Implementation Group, and off-road vehicle issues. ♡



Amanda Jorgenson

**Alison Shilling**

**Charles Blair, Chair**  
Volunteer Recognition Committee

## In Appreciation: Carol Witham

### Longtime champion of vernal pools

Anyone who has worked with Carol Witham for an extended period of time is certain to have noticed a couple of outstanding qualities, namely her passion and dedication. In working with Carol myself, I have come to respect her deep commitment both to conservation in general and to CNPS in particular.

Carol has dedicated most of her professional life to understanding the vegetation and natural history of vernal pools, as well as to promoting the conservation of these unique ecosystems. Believing plants are necessary for the survival of animals and humans, she has become a strong conservation advocate. To ensure the survival of California's native flora and natural

habitats, Carol is extending her support to CNPS through her living trust.

As she explains: "I am a belly-botanist at heart. There is nothing more rewarding to me than to get everyone down on their hands and knees to get a closer look at the diminutive plants so characteristic of vernal pools and many other California plant communities. I also like to remind everyone that plants form the basis of most terrestrial ecosystems. Without native plants, many animal species will perish. Endangered and even common animals cannot be conserved without preserving the native plant communities upon which they or their prey depend."

As Carol can attest, it is easy to arrange a bequest from a living trust. Such bequests also provide important resources for the conservation of California's native plants and their ecosystems. For more information, please contact Cari Porter, development director, at 916-447-2677. ♡

**Amanda Jorgenson**  
Executive Director



Diana Hickson

**Carol photographing vernal pool plants in 1995.**

## Vernal Pools (from page 1)

now has 120 days to produce a new critical habitat designation.

CNPS and other organizations, including Defenders of Wildlife and Butte Environmental Council, have embarked on a series of strategic lawsuits intended to improve protections for vernal pools and their endemic and imperiled species. This is the third lawsuit filed by these groups against the FWS for failure to properly designate critical habitat for vernal pool species. We have prevailed in each of these lawsuits, and are incrementally getting closer to achieving necessary vernal pool species protection—protection mandated by the Endangered Species Act but ignored by the current administration. These lawsuits are also generating case law that will help strengthen interpretation of the recovery goals of the Endangered Species Act.

### “JEOPARDY STANDARD”

On lands *not designated* as critical habitat, proposed projects that destroy listed species or their habitat—including vernal pool habitat—currently must only demonstrate that their project is not likely to lead to the extinction of the species—the so-called “jeopardy standard.” However, in areas designated as critical habitat, the project proponent must prove and FWS must agree that the project will not affect the long-term recovery of the species—the “recovery standard.” By sending the 2005 designation back to the FWS for reconsideration, the court has sided with the intent of Congress when it enacted the Endangered Species Act back in 1973. The purpose of the Act is to use all means available to bring imperiled species back from the brink of extinction. 🌿

**Carol Witham** is a consulting biologist specializing in vernal pool ecosystems, an outspoken conservation advocate, and a member of the CNPS Litigation and Conservation Committees.

## How CNPS is Fighting Invasive Plants (from page 1)

ters are members of their local WMA, and actively participate in planning meetings and WMA-sponsored projects such as workshops on invasive plant identification, preparing and disseminating informational literature, and work parties to remove invasives.

As WMA partners, CNPS chapters need to support and aid the efforts of land stewards to maintain biodiversity and encourage use of the most effective and least harmful methods to control or eradicate invasive plants. Members of CNPS are recognized as experts in the field of plant identification, biodiversity, and restoration. Our input is critical to the adoption of integrated vegetation management (IVM) into WMA strategic plans.

WMAs were first authorized by the state legislature in 1999, and Vern Goehring, CNPS legislative consultant, with help from the Invasive Exotics Committee, inserted important language in the formative legislation. The following year, the same team played an important role in passing SB1740, which appropriated \$5 million annually for three years to WMAs. Our endorsement of this legislation was important because it

helped to create a broad, diverse coalition of stakeholders in California—the California Invasive Weeds Awareness Coalition or CALIWAC—comprised of the Regional Council of Rural Counties, the Farm Bureau, Cattleman’s Association, Cal-IPC, and conservation organizations including CNPS. CNPS members have helped to allocate these funds, serving on the ad hoc committees set up annually by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDEA) to review and rank the proposals.

For the last two years, CALIWAC has pursued an extension of funding for WMAs through a combination of education and legislation. As a member of CALIWAC, state CNPS and CNPS chapters helped to sponsor and support Weed Day at the Capitol and California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week. The governor and legislators received over 100 letters of support from organizations for AB 2479, including letters from the state CNPS office and from 13 CNPS chapters. In a compromise, \$1.5 million was added to the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s budget specifically for WMAs. We are working to at least maintain the \$1.5 million in future CDEA budgets.

At the federal level, the Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004, passed and signed by the President (now P.L. 108-412), and which authorizes \$15 million per year until 2009, is still awaiting funding. In 2006 Bob Case and Jake Sigg, representing CNPS, attended National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week in Washington, D.C., and early in 2007 Don Mayall and Bob Case expect to attend. While there, we will be visiting with California congressional representatives and federal agencies to secure funding for P.L. 108-412 and support other legislation to fight invasive plants. 🌿

**Bob Case, Don Mayall, and Jake Sigg**, all long-time CNPS members, comprise the CNPS Invasive Exotics Committee.



Bob Case

**Water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) grows faster than any other known plant, doubling in size every ten days in hot weather. It has completely overtaken this section of Seven Mile Slough in Sacramento County.**

# Native Gardening in Season

## Spring Plant Events

BY ABBIE BLAIR

Mark your calendars now to attend native plant sales and garden tours this spring. Besides offering gardeners a wide selection of plants, these events provide an opportunity to rub elbows with local experts who have volunteered to share their expertise. These volunteers can often help solve your dilemmas in growing native plants and supply you with fresh gardening ideas. Bring photos or drawings of your landscape and your toughest questions. Shelve your shyness and start a conversation! You will be glad you did.



Julie Campbell

Nursery manager, Bruce Reed, assisting customers at a Santa Barbara Botanic Garden plant sale.

Plant sales offer a wide assortment of competitively priced seeds, bulbs, annuals, perennials,

trees, and shrubs appropriate for local gardens, as well as posters, books, and gift items. Check ahead of time whether you'll need to bring your own carry-home boxes or wagons, and the types of payment that are accepted. Prepare a wish list of plants and arrive early for best selection. Allow time for informational presentations and questions.

See how native plant design, installation, and maintenance all come together on a garden tour. It's always a good idea to check the tour's website beforehand to find out if you need to register, and for garden descriptions, times, and locations of informational talks and plant sale locations. Be sure to register early as space can be limited. Make the most of the day by obtaining a detailed map of the area and chart the best route. Four to six stops usually fill the day. 🌿

**[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](mailto:abbieblair@baymoon.com).

## Ask the Gardener

Q: Should native plants be fertilized?

In the landscape, additional fertilizer is not necessary when locally appropriate plants are installed in local soils. However, there are times and situations in the *maintained garden* when limited applications are desirable. The use of soil amendments and fertilizers can correct nutritionally deficient soils.

Overall garden aesthetics can be improved with an application of a complete fertilizer, including micronutrients, during the growing season (fall to spring). After planting or pruning, fertilizer applications can encourage desirable growth in certain plants. However, always use caution when applying fertilizers, as excessive amounts can promote growth that can shorten a plant's lifespan. A good rule of thumb to follow is to use only one-quarter of the manufacturer's recommended amount. 🌿

## Spring Garden Calendar

- Attend garden tours and plant sales.
- Go wildflower viewing (see hotlines/sites: [www.rsabg.org](http://www.rsabg.org)).
- Sow California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*), yarrow (*Achillea* spp.), and farewell to spring (*Clarkia amoena*).
- Install plants immediately after purchase.
- Monitor and adjust irrigation.
- Prune spring flowering shrubs after blooming, such as ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.) and bush anemone (*Carpenteria californica*).
- Divide warm season grasses such as dune sedge (*Carex praegracilis*) and deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*).
- Leave seed heads of California fescue (*Festuca californica*), purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*), and other cool season grasses for reseeding, if desired. 🌿

# 2005–2006 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

## Achievements

### LOCAL CHAPTERS: WORKING TO PROTECT OUR NATIVE FLORA

CNPS volunteers are the heart and soul of the Society. Organized into 32 chapters, our volunteers continued to play key roles in 1) educating the public about the importance of native plants; 2) promoting the use of native plants in home gardens and urban landscapes; 3) encouraging government agencies to incorporate local native plant concerns in regional habitat and species conservation programs; 4) monitoring rare plant populations and conducting vegetation classification surveys; and 5) eradicating exotic invasive species and restoring degraded natural areas. This past year CNPS volunteers spent over 92,000 hours to promote the Society's mission.

### VEGETATION PROGRAM: AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF VEGETATION CLASSIFICATION SCIENCE

The Vegetation Program has benefited from having four staff members who provide the stability needed to produce important, high-quality scientific information. Together with the participation of our dedicated chapter volunteers, the program has been able to increase our understanding of California's vegetation, as well as to support the conservation work of our chapters.

In the Northern Sierra Nevada Foothills Project, for example, over 950 field vegetation surveys were conducted. In other parts of the state, our work generated a series of technical reports, articles, and maps describing vegetation associations and alliances. New data was incorporated into more than 100 vegetation descriptions for the second edition of the *Manual of California Vegetation*. We also conducted



Todd Keeler-Wolf

**CNPS staff and volunteers have been surveying vegetation around the state. Here two members survey grass and wild-flower diversity in Butte County.**

14 workshops on vegetation sampling, classification, and mapping. In addition, staff designed improvements to the program databases, making it easier to enter, use, and analyze vegetation data, and to prepare reports.

### HORTICULTURE PROGRAM: PROMOTING THE APPROPRIATE USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

The Horticulture Program continued to flourish and expand. Since its revitalization in 2004, volunteers have contributed more than 1,500 hours toward the program's goal to promote, support, and encourage the appropriate horticultural use of native plants. Funding received early in 2006 made possible the production and distribution of a new CNPS publication, *Why Use Native Plants?* The popular brochure quickly became a valued tool for chapter plant sales, native garden tours, and other CNPS outreach events. The end of the year brought additional funding for an expanded version of the brochure in both English and Spanish.

A regular horticulture feature also returned to the pages of *Fremontia*, and a "Native Gardening in Season" page was instituted in the *CNPS Bulletin*. A CNPS

Horticulture Award was inaugurated to recognize pioneers of native horticulture, and three recipients were honored this year: the East Bay Chapter Native Plant Sale, Lee J. Lenz, and John Dourley. State-level support for horticultural activities also increased with calendar postings of chapter plant sales and garden tours on the state website, as well as discussions between CNPS and the landscape industry.

### RARE PLANT PROGRAM: PROVIDING SOUND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION TO STAKEHOLDERS

CNPS continued to provide the most up-to-date information available in the state on rare plants, and also sought ways to streamline the way rare plant data is gathered, stored, and analyzed. A new database was created to make it easier to maintain and update the CNPS Online Inventory.



Norman Jensena

***Silene serpentinicola*, only discovered in 2004, is endemic to serpentine soils in the Smith River Basin of Del Norte County, CA. This rare plant species was added to CNPS List 1B.2 in 2005 due to its limited range and restricted habitat.**

CNPS also developed a procedure to facilitate changes to the Inventory.

In addition, the program implemented the removal of the RED Code (Rarity, Endangerment, and Distribution) in order to make the rare plant classification



system more explicit and less redundant. CNPS now uses a 1–3 ranking system to determine threat status, and explicitly indicates whether or not the species is endemic to California. Volunteer experts also reviewed the conservation status of approximately 35 rare plants. More than half of these species reviews were new additions to the Inventory.

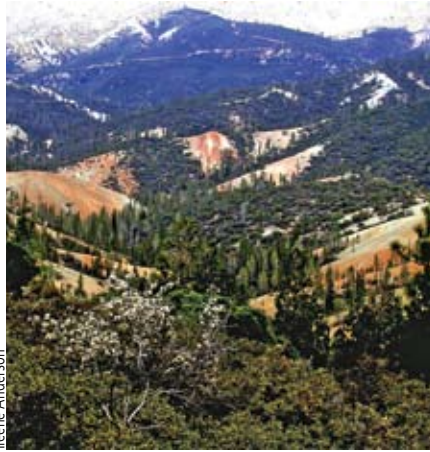
During the past year the program held two regional meetings to discuss rare plant issues of concern to CNPS members, including one at San Clemente with southern California chapters, and another at UC Berkeley with central California chapters.

### CONSERVATION PROGRAM: PROMOTING SCIENCE-BASED PLANT CONSERVATION POLICIES

Staff and volunteers were very effective in promoting plant-friendly policies. They dedicated thousands of hours sponsoring relevant legislation, recommending appropriate land-use management practices, and monitoring local projects for potential ecological threats.

In the legislative arena, CNPS sponsored Senate Bill 502 and Assembly Bill 1466. We also worked with other environmental groups to consolidate positions on legislation and budget-related issues. Furthermore, CNPS lobbied local legislators in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Endangered Species Act (which is still intact!), as well as participated in the Invasive Weed Day at the State Capitol (Sacramento) and the National Invasive Weed Awareness Week in Washington.

CNPS submitted dozens of letters commenting on a variety of land-use, forest management, and conservation projects throughout the state. For instance, the Society weighed in on the four land-use management plans for the southern California Forests (Los Padres, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland) which



Heene Anderson

**CNPS's Conservation Program challenged off-road vehicle use in the Clear Creek Management Area, near Hollister, in order to prevent damage to the rare plants that thrive within its asbestos-laden soils.**

did not adequately address natural communities and rare plants. CNPS voiced its opposition to a proposal to remove native western juniper at a rate of 50,000 acres per year from Modoc National Forest/BLM land for a period of 30 years. In addition, the Society intervened in the Pacific Legal Foundation's sweeping legal challenges on Critical Habitat designation.

In the area of litigation, CNPS participated in lawsuits against the U.S. Forest Service to prevent 1) aerial herbicide spraying on 1,500 acres of rare plant habitat as proposed by the Larson Project, and 2) conversion of 13,500 acres of natural recovering native forest to uniform conifer tree plantations as proposed by the Cottonwood Project. Both of these projects were held in abeyance due to court decisions upholding the issues brought forward by CNPS. With the Center for Biological Diversity, CNPS also challenged BLM management of off-road vehicle use in Clear Creek Management Area, near Hollister, in order to protect the San Benito primrose and other sensitive plant species.

To identify program priorities, CNPS conducted regional meetings throughout the state. The results of these visioning meetings can be found at: [www.cnps.org/programs/conservation/meetings.htm](http://www.cnps.org/programs/conservation/meetings.htm).

### EDUCATION PROGRAM: INCREASING KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF CALIFORNIA'S FLORA

CNPS conducted a wide array of education and outreach activities, most of which were carried out by an extraordinary group of volunteers. Chapters were very active in leading a variety of educational programs, including 1) school garden programs designed to teach children about native plant conservation and ecology, and 2) educational nature walks and field trips to call attention to native plants and their natural habitats. CNPS participated in Aveda's 2005 Earth Month Campaign and promoted support for the protection of threatened and endangered native plants.

At the state level, the Education Grants Program Committee reviewed 14 proposals and awarded 6 research grants to graduate students. Approved research topics included: invasive species in wildlands; taxonomy and ecology of *Eriastrum* spp.; role of annual grasses in creosote bush scrub; and eradication of *Lepidium* from Bay area marshes. In addition, CNPS provided professional training workshops on plant identification, survey methods, and plant classification. 🌱



Betsy Landis

**This photo from the LA/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter Wildflower Show illustrates how chapters use public events as a way to educate and inform the public about native plants.**

# 2005–2006 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

### Revenue & Other Support

Member Dues . . . . .	\$347,767
Donations . . . . .	293,047
Sales, net of Cost of Sales . . . . .	40,612
Other Income . . . . .	269,821
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Other Support . . . . .</b>	<b>951,247</b>

### Program & Administrative Expenses

Management & General . . . . .	142,140
Board . . . . .	19,730
Fundraising . . . . .	88,382
Plant Science . . . . .	367,281
Conservation . . . . .	84,043
Horticulture & Education . . . . .	134,796
Chapter Services . . . . .	101,756
Sales . . . . .	49,954
<b>Total Administrative Expenses . . . . .</b>	<b>988,082</b>

Change in Assets . . . . .	-36,835
Net Assets, March 31, 2006 . . . . .	454,071

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, 3/31/2006

### Assets

Cash . . . . .	246,781
Short-term Investments . . . . .	104,192
Marketable Securities . . . . .	63,187
Sales Accounts Receivable . . . . .	18,952
Grants Receivable . . . . .	34,959
Contracts Receivable . . . . .	80,183
Inventory . . . . .	173,900
Prepaid Expenses . . . . .	10,774
Field & Office Equipment . . . . .	20,742
Poster Sales Receivables . . . . .	9,682
Deposits . . . . .	2043
<b>Total Assets . . . . .</b>	<b>765,395</b>

### Current Liabilities

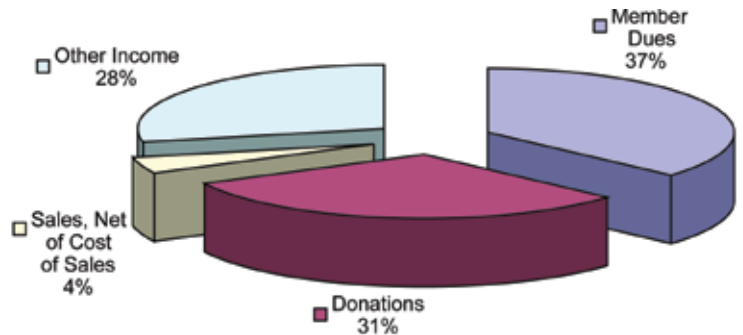
Accounts Payable . . . . .	11,157
Accrued Expenses . . . . .	32,921
Agency Fund . . . . .	23,513
Deferred Income . . . . .	243,733
<b>Total Current Liabilities . . . . .</b>	<b>311,324</b>
<b>Net Assets . . . . .</b>	<b>454,071</b>
<b>Totals Liabilities &amp; Net Assets . . . . .</b>	<b>765,395</b>

## Financial Report

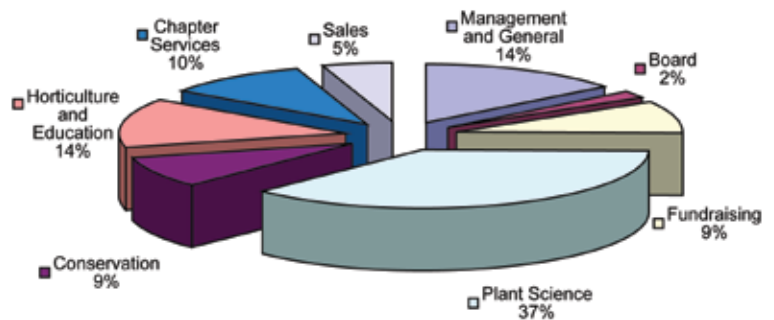
The Statement of Financial Activities and pie charts below represent the Society's fiscal year (April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006), as stated in our financial statements audited by Damore, Hamric & Schneider, Inc. While membership and sales increased slightly, other donations were down. An increase in income from contracts helped offset the difference.

The reduction in net assets represents the utilization of restricted funds and retained surplus accumulated from previous years. The CNPS Board of Directors approved spending these funds to accomplish the Society's mission. The Society provides services (sales tax and financial reporting, membership management, insurance coverage, etc.) for the 32 CNPS chapters. However, additional chapter-generated income and chapter assets are not represented in this statement of activities. 🌿

### REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT



### PROGRAM & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES



# 2005–2006 CNPS ANNUAL REPORT

## Major Donors

We wish to thank the following major donors for their contributions to CNPS during fiscal year 2005–2006. Their continuing support is vital to the work of CNPS.

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## Long-Term Donors

The Society would like to thank the following donors for their long-term support to CNPS. Donor Circle members have contributed \$25,000 or more to CNPS over the past 10 years. Legacy Circle members have informed us that they have included CNPS in their estate plans.

### DONOR CIRCLE

Carol Baird & Alan Harper  
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Brad Jenkins  
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Dan Cheatham  
Rosemary F. Foster  
Scott & Jenny Fleming  
Virginia & Grant Fletcher  
Erin Gottschalk  
Carlyn Halde

## SAN DIEGO CHAPTER: CNPS Wins Award for Plant Guide

The Association of Environmental Planners (AEP) presented an award to the San Diego Chapters of CNPS and the American Society of Landscape Architects for a publication they coauthored, published, and distributed, titled *The San Diego County Invasive Ornamental Plant Guide*. The award was presented at AEP's annual awards banquet in 2006.



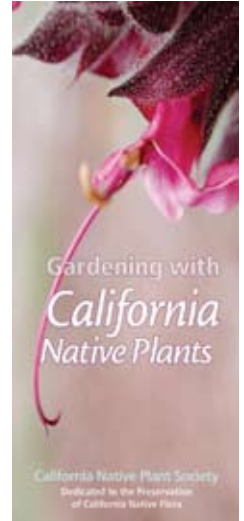
The primary purpose of the guide is to educate landscape professionals and the general public on the cultivation, selection, use, and management of

non-native and/or invasive flora in San Diego regional landscapes. The guide is of special importance in urban interface areas where natural vegetation and man-made landscapes come into close contact. It provides a list of plants in two categories: most invasive and moderately invasive. The complete guide is available online at [www.asla-sandiego.org/content/plantguide.html](http://www.asla-sandiego.org/content/plantguide.html).

Carolyn Martus, President  
San Diego Chapter

## New Brochure Available

Hot off the press is the new CNPS brochure, *Gardening with California Native Plants*. Educational as well as beautiful, it is available in both English and Spanish, and is ideal for chapter outreach efforts such as plant sales, wildflower shows, and garden tours. Included are many photos of our naturally beautiful California flora in garden settings. The brochure also includes a "foldout page" suitable for displays. Free copies can be obtained, individually or in quantity, by calling the state CNPS office at 916-447-2677.



### Next Chapter Council Meeting

JUNE 2, MORROW BAY

FOCUS: INNER WORKINGS AND ATTRIBUTES OF CNPS

### NOTE TO READERS

Beginning with this issue, the CNPS *Bulletin* will resume being mailed separately from *Fremontia*.



The California Native Plant Society is a statewide, nonprofit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in learning about and preserving California's native plants and plant communities. Membership is open to all. Visit [cnps.org](http://cnps.org).  
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# Bulletin

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