



CNPS Channel Islands January 2024 Newsletter

Saging the World showing at Oxnard Native Plant Fest January 13th, 2024 (taking the place of our Monthly Meeting)



Our January Program Meeting will be replaced with a special opportunity to view the film Saging The World at the Oxnard Native Plant Fest on Saturday, January 13, 2024. The event is being organized by the Oxnard Performing Arts Center. Our Chapter will have an outreach table at the Plant Fest at Community Park East at 800 Hobson Way. The Plant Fest starts at 11 am and ends at 4 pm. Free film showings will be at 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm in the Performing Arts Center Auditorium, with a panel discussion that includes Rose Ramirez, (one of the creators/producers), following the 12 pm showing. There will also be workshops and other events. The film runs approximately 20 minutes.

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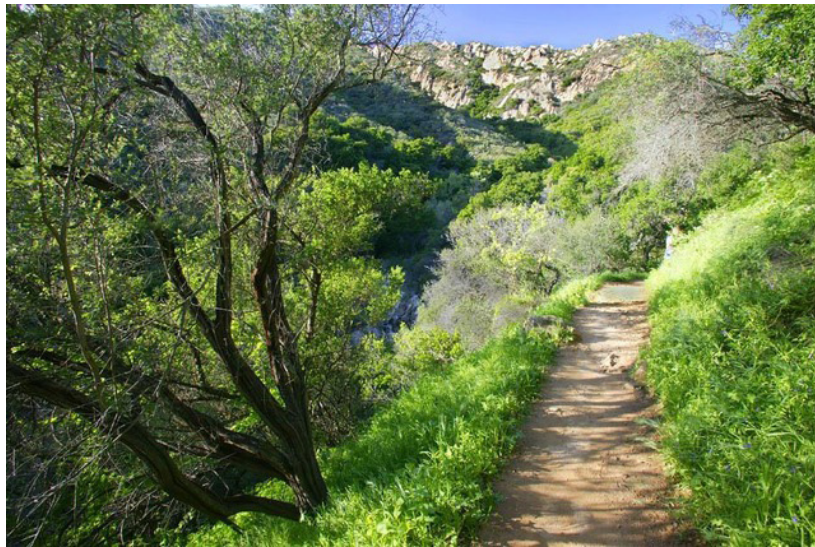
More about the film and creators:

Indigenous communities have tended a relationship with white sage for thousands of generations. White sage (*Salvia apiana*) only occurs in southern California and northern Baja California, Mexico. Today, poachers are stealing metric tons of this plant from the wild to supply international demand. *Saging the World* spotlights the ecological and cultural issues intertwined with white sage, centering the voices of Native advocates who have long protected and cherished this plant. The short documentary was produced by Rose Ramirez, Deborah Small, and the California Native Plant Society to foster awareness and inspire action for white sage. For more information on the film and ways to support white sage, visit cnps.org/sagingtheworld.

Sage smudging has become a viral trend. What's the truth behind the smoke? "Saging" has become common in movies, TV shows, social media, and cleansing rituals –people burning sage bundles in the hope of purifying space and clearing bad energy. Instead of healing, the appropriated use of saging in popular culture is having a harmful effect.

January Botany Hike

Native Trees and Shrubs in the Foothills of Santa Barbara: Jesusita Trail Saturday, January 27th from 10am–12:30pm



The foothills in Santa Barbara support a variety of native trees and shrubs, many of which can look similar at first. We'll encounter several common woody species and we'll discuss their unique features, some of their uses, and the roles they play in nature. You'll come away with some easy ways to identify them. Our 2-3 mile walk is slow-paced on a mostly shaded, gently undulating trail.

This walk is on the Jesusita Trail that starts at the Cater water treatment plant at the north end of San Roque Road, Santa Barbara. Parking is free, but can be limited on Saturdays. You may need to park down the hill and walk 1/4 mile up the paved road to the trailhead. Please add extra travel time for this possibility. Bring water, hat, and sunscreen. And please no dogs. We will gather at the beginning of the Jesusita trailhead and begin our walk at 10 AM. We will be walking up to 2.5 miles on a relatively level trail with a few very short steeper sections. Rain cancels.

Directions to the Jesusita Trailhead: From Hwy 101 in Santa Barbara (coming from either direction), take exit 100 onto Las Positas Road. Turn north (toward the mountains) onto Las Positas Road. Take Las Positas Road toward the mountains for 1.9 miles. Note that about half way there you'll cross State Street and Las Positas Road turns into Santa Roque Road. The Cater Water Treatment Plant and the Jesusita Trailhead will be there on the left.

Scholarship News

Announcing the 2024 CNPSCI Chapter student scholarship program for research or projects related to the native plants in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Suitable topics include, but are not limited to: taxonomy; natural history; plant ecology; pollination ecology; paleobotany; restoration; ethnobotany; biogeography; phenology and more.

The Board of Directors of CNPSCI will award one college student with \$1500 to cover a stipend and project expenses. For more details, check out our [information flyer](#). To apply, click on this link to the [Scholarship Submission Form](#)

Application deadline: January 31, 2024.

Funding awarded: February 14, 2024.

Plant of the Month

White Flowering Currant (*Ribes indecorum*)



Ribes indecorum is a species of currant known by the common names white-flowered currant and white chaparral currant. It is native to the southern California Coast Ranges, Transverse Ranges, and Peninsular Ranges, from around Santa Barbara County in California south into northern Baja California.

It is an erect shrub approaching three meters in maximum height. The stem is fuzzy and glandular in texture. The deciduous leaves are 1 to 4 centimeters long. The thick, wrinkly blades are divided into three to five toothed lobes, and are hairy, glandular, and aromatic. The inflorescence is a loose raceme of 10 to 25 flowers. The flower is roughly tubular with the white or pink-tinged sepals spreading open to reveal smaller whitish petals inside. Flowers bloom in late winter / early spring, and have an exceptionally pleasant fragrance, among the best of any California native. The fruit is a hairy, sticky very attractive berry that can be orange, purple, pink or red, and are under a centimeter wide.

White Flowering Currant is very drought tolerant once established, but still does best in part shade, or in spots that retain slightly more moisture, such as creek sides, north or east facing slopes, or adjacent to boulders. Best to avoid direct summer water after this plant is established. It'll go nearly completely summer deciduous, and then spring back to life with the start of the rainy season. *Text courtesy of calscape.org and photo courtesy of Keir Morse.*

New Titles in Our Bookshop on bookshop.org

We have launched a [virtual storefront on bookshop.org](https://bookshop.org). Channel Islands Chapter will receive 10% of every purchase you make through our shop.

Thank you for purchasing through our affiliate link this past month! It was a great start. We have added some new titles:

- Introduction to the Plant Life of Southern California: Coast to Foothills
- Introduction to the Geology of Southern California and Its Native Plants
- Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias
- Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Southern California
- Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees and Butterflies” Northern California
- California’s Fading Wildflowers: Lost Legacy and Biological Invasions
- The Illustrated Herbiary Puzzle: California Poppy (750 pieces)
- Gardening with California Native Plants: Inlands, Foothill and Central Valley Gardens
- The Drought-Defying California Garden: 230 Native Plants for a Lush, Low-Water Landscape
- California’s Wild Coast—Note Card Box
- The Trees of California—Note Card Box
- The Sierra Winter—Note Card Box
- California’s Channel Islands: A History
- Historic Redwood National and State Parks: The Stories Behind One of America’s Great Treasures
- Roadside Geology of Southern California
- Birds of Southern California
- Southern California Mountain Wildflowers: A Field Guide to Wildflowers Above 5000 Feet: San Bernardino, San Gabriel and San Jacinto Ranges
- 101 Hikes in Southern California: Exploring Mountains, Seashore and Desert

We have lots of other great titles to choose from in our “store”. Bookshop.org is an alternative to you-know-who and they are known for supporting independent booksellers as well as non-profit organizations. Our offerings will be ever-changing so check back often. Feel free to share this link with others or on your preferred social media platform(s).

Have You Checked Us Out on Instagram?

Have you been following us on [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/channelislandschapter)? We have a new person, Angel, handling our posts now and he is doing an outstanding job. Watch our Stories to find out cool things happening not only in our chapter, but in other local groups as well.

Board Election Results

Board Elections were held in December. Ellen Dean was elected Secretary, Samantha Green and Carolyn Warren were elected co-Treasurers, and Patt McDaniel was elected Chapter Council Representative. Our President and Vice-President positions are still open. We are also looking for someone who would be willing to be an Alternate Chapter Council Representative. If you are interested in these opportunities, please [email Ellen Dean](mailto:ellen@channelislandschapter.org).

Mark Your Calendars

- **January 23, 2024** | Terri Burgess will give a talk on the Joy of Gardening with Natives and information on Ventura County endemic plants to the Organic Garden Club of Ventura, at the Newbury Park Library.
- **Saturday February 3, 2024 (*note date change)** | botany hike up in Wheeler Gorge.
- **Saturday, April 20th** | Spring Plant Sale at the Museum of Agriculture in Santa Paula