President's Message (continued)

some do occasionally get named such as varieties that are recognized near the coast: var. fascicularis in San Luis Obispo County, var. dubius in the Santa Cruz Mountains, var. rigidus and var. ramulosus in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties.

For those who may be wondering that if the Kern County oddities are really that different, why not just give them a name? One also needs to look at lots of herbarium specimens, not only of plants collected in Kern County, but throughout the range of the species. Our Kern County *Ceanothus* includes *C. vestitus*, originally described from plants that grow in the mountains above Tehachapi. It has been linked to another species that originally was described from plants that grow in northern mainland Mexico, *C. greggii*, one that has been interpreted to have many varieties between the two type locations, generally distinguished by leaf characters. Thus, that would require looking at many specimens and the types for many of the varietal names generally not available to me.

Native Gardening Notes:

Late Summer, Early Fall

by Monica Tudor

I LOVE THIS TIME OF YEAR. THE WEATHER IS cooling off slightly — I was just commenting that only in Bakersfield does a 95-degree day in August seem cool; at least when compared to the string of over-100 degree days we have had this year.

The hummingbirds have begun their southward migrations. The yard and California garden are thick with them. Even before seeing the numbers increase, I can tell they are on the move because the feeders need to be filled daily. That is a labor I love! The birds don’t seem to have favorites. They’ll go after the feeders as eagerly as they do the flowers, although at the moment there is not an abundance of flowers blooming.

Lipstick sage *(Salvia greggii)*

Autumn sage *(Salvia greggii)*, desert marigold *(Baileya multiradiata)*, western or pacific aster *(Aster chilensis* or *occidentalis)*, Texas Ranger *(Leucophyllum frutescens)*, and butterfly bush *(Buddleia davidii)* are all blooming. Yes, I know they are not all natives, but they fit into one or more of the garden’s requirements: they are either drought-tolerant, or native, attract hummingbirds and butterflies, or act as a host plant for butterflies. The fact that they are blooming in spite of the extreme summer weather reveals how hardy they are!

Even the plant that went summer dormant is starting to show new growth. The May Night salvia was a crispy brown mess but now is starting to grow new leaves.

Every year I look forward to the bloom period of the California fuchsias in my garden. They are planted in different parts of the garden, so their appearance varies quite a bit. The plant in sand is easily three feet tall and wide. This plant gets more water than the others, yet because of the well-draining sand can tolerate it. Last year the blooms were so heavy the plant almost flopped down. What a nice problem to have! The other two are in “fighting” shape. They are more sparsely leaved and not nearly as large, since they make do with much less water. Their soil is a bit more clayey, so when they get too much summer water, their leaves will die off, a lesson learned by trial and error. I’ve learned the best way to get those fuchsias through the summer is to water nearby plants. Ap-
Parently the fuchsias find that sufficient to survive. Watering nearby plants is also how the Penstemon margarita BOP makes it through the summer.

I’m looking forward to the Native Plant Sale at CSUB, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 25th. I’m doodling plans on scrap pieces of paper, mentally selecting plants and imagining what the new part of the garden will look like after a few years. The Bakersfield sun is daunting, so one thing is for sure, there will be shade of some sort. I like the light shade cast by a Desert Museum palo verde. It is enough to provide a bit of cooling, but not too dense to prevent plants from growing under its shade. Another design element will be a fountain of some sort. The sound of water is cooling and draws birds to the garden.

Our next meeting is Thursday September 18 at the Hall Ambulance Community Room, 1031 21st St, corner of N St. & 21st St., 6:00–9:00 PM Come at 6:00 p.m. to learn about identifying plants or to talk about native plant gardening. At 7:00 PM, Steve Kranyak will talk about growing native plants in Bakersfield.

(*Left) California fuchsia (Zauschneria aka Epilobium canum) in clay, watered at a distance.

(*Right) California fuchsia in sand with occasional water.

Proposed Trip to Mojave National Preserve:
STAY TUNED FOR PLANS!

by Lucy Clark

In September 2012, after the monsoon rains in the desert, Clyde and I saw many fall flowers which were magnets for amazing flies, butterflies, beetles, moths, and caterpillars.

After hearing about monsoon rains in the Mojave National Preserve this summer, and receiving encouraging words from Annie Kearns who works there, we are planning another trip to see flowers and their attendant pollinators. We will probably go during the week, due to weekend traffic, and stay in Primm, NV overnight. There are also two convenient campgrounds: Mid Hills and Hole-in-the-Wall at the Mojave National Preserve.

We are hoping for more rain out there, and await word from Annie about the bloom. A notice will go out to all, and all are welcome to experience the impact of the monsoons.

California Aster (Aster chilensis)

Flowers and insect pollinators at Mojave National Preserve, 2012

Photo courtesy Clyde Golden