President’s Message
Wildflower Show and 2015 Bloom Report
by Rich Spjut

The Kern Chapter recently held its wildflower show at the tenth annual Garden Fest in celebration of the CNPS Native Plant Week.

Our thanks to Dorie Giragosian who made the arrangements and spent the entire day at the center booth, and to Ellen Cypher and Denis Kearns for collecting, identifying and labeling plants they brought to the show. Dorie also helped with the printing of the labels, and collecting of the flowers in the Mojave Desert, Kern Canyon, and Greenhorn Mountains.

Thanks also to our other chapter members who helped in setting up and taking down the tables, posters, banners, books, and vases.

This spring began with an early bloom in the Carrizo Plain; however, the weather quickly warmed, causing flowers to wither sooner than we might have wanted. For example, many plants we had in our 2011 show were not available. Moreover, scheduled field trips were moved forward, taking into consideration the fading flowers. Our field trip to the Carizzo Plain, led by Denis Kearns, nevertheless found a good showing of *Eremalche parryi* for which we conducted a local survey in the area. It was observed mostly around California juniper and California ephedra along the crest of a hill. By the time of the BioBlitz of May 9, conducted on the TNC Caliente ranches and the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, the Douglas oak woodlands had turned brown.

In planning future wildflower shows, especially when scheduled during Native Plant Week, we should emphasize native species, as opposed to introducing non-native invasive species. We should also keep in mind that holding these events outdoors, in the open, means that flowers will wither quickly in sun-heated water in glass vases, and that wind can also be a problem.

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Eremalche parryi and Juniperus californicus

Dry oak savannah, May 2015

Sample wildflower specimen with labeling from 2015 wildflower show

Dorie Giragosian oversaw the 2015 chapter wildflower show tables at the annual Garden Fest, April 18th. Here, she and Rich Spjut greet visitors.

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