



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Neill

As we move/glide/sail into a new year, I will use this space to review developments of 2023 and recognize some of our chapter leaders for their contributions.

A year ago, our chapter vice president **Snowdy Dodson** took on the job of secretary of the CNPS Chapter Council, so is more involved with state-wide policy and organization. Snowdy also lines up our monthly membership programs, and assists with field trips and our native plant sale.

Also a year ago, **Mary Montes** volunteered to assume the job of chapter treasurer, starting in January 2023. Mary has continued in her previous positions as Horticulture co-chair and Public Relations chair, and primary organizer of our native plant sale.

Our other Horticulture co-chair, **Christian Kiillkkaa**, attends state-wide horticulture meetings and assists Mary Montes with tabling.

Relatively new to our board, **Mary Herr** became our secretary last February, accurately recording our bi-monthly board meetings. Mary also manages volunteers working to control invasive weeds in Santa Clarita.

CNPS Fellow **Steve Hartman** continues to edit and assemble our chapter newsletter, Toyon, five times a year and has been active for decades at managing and restoring the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve. He also leads weeding and hikes in Caballero Canyon in Tarzana.

Also active at Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve are **George Waddell**, who organizes volunteer work teams for habitat enhancement, and **Greg Stewart** who represents our chapter on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee.

Over the past summer, our webmaster **Louise Ratliff** developed a new chapter website with assistance from Kelly McCusker, when the state office mandated a change of platforms.

Cynthia Jackson is our contact with the Culver City Garden Club and plant-related events in that part of western Los Angeles County; plus she is a Southern CA Garden Club Board member and chair of the California Garden Club's Environmental School.

continued on page 2

TUESDAY EVENING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

JANUARY 9, 2024 – 7:00 - 9:30PM

Virtual Program via Zoom

CREATING AN ECOLOGICAL STITCH AT THE WALLIS ANNEBERG WILDLIFE CROSSING

Presenter: Robert Rock

The process of creating the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing has gone far beyond the monumental infrastructure necessary to accomplish this bold vision. Hear from Robert Rock, Principal and COO at Living Habitats, who is leading the design of the crossing and collaborating with Caltrans on the engineering and construction, and Katherine Pakradouni from the SAMO Fund who manages the project's native plant nursery. Presented from concept to the early stages of construction, learn how the team embraced a hyper-local approach to restoration through the collection and

continued on page 2

FEBRUARY 13, 2024 – 7:00 - 9:30PM

Virtual Program via Zoom

CNPS SUPPORT TO CALIFORNIA'S PROGRESS TOWARD 30 X 30

**Presenter: Jun Bando,
CNPS Executive Director**

CNPS is deeply involved in California's effort to protect 30% of our lands and coastal waters by 2030, as part of the global "30x30" movement. Join us to hear an update on 30x30 implementation and CNPS's support to 30x30 through science, advocacy, and participation in strategic initiatives and coalitions. Jun Bando is the Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society. An ecologist with a 20-year career spanning higher education, international diplomacy, and advocacy, Jun earned her doctorate in Ecology from the University of California, Davis. Based in Sacramento, Jun manages a team of approximately 50 statewide staff who work with CNPS members and volunteers in 36 chapters across California and Baja.

Information for logging onto the Zoom presentation will be posted on our website twenty hours ahead of the event and announced via email blast.

RESTORATION

The Native Plant Garden in the City of L.A.'s Temescal Canyon Park

Last Saturday, Jan. 27 and Feb. 24 9am-4pm

Just a few steps east of ~700 Temescal Canyon Road, Pacific Palisades, 90272 (between the PCH & Sunset, below Bowdoin Street). Community Service Credit. Subject to cancellation – confirm ahead of time with Michael G. Terry at michaelgterry@hotmail.com.

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, Van Nuys

Tuesdays and Thursdays Dawn - 9:30am

Saturday, Jan. 27 7am - 10am

Saturday, Feb. 24 7am - 10am

Help remove non-native plants. To sign up and get meeting place details, contact George Waddell at moiraw@earthlink.net.

All Hikes and Restoration Activities - Rain Cancels

CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

February 6, 7pm (Tuesday)

By Zoom conference. All chapter members are welcome. Contact Bill Neill for link.

[\(bgneill@earthlink.net\)](mailto:bgneill@earthlink.net)

Tuesday Evening Monthly Programs

Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing

continued from front page

propagation of native seed and locally sourced soil biology and how this unique level of collaboration across multiple entities is helping to reinforce ecological goals for the project.

As Design Principal and Chief Operating Officer of Living Habitats in Chicago, Robert Rock oversees all aspects of project work and manages day-to-day operations of the studio. Beginning with his nearly fifteen years at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and continuing with his current role since 2016, Robert brings extensive expertise realizing ambitious projects that integrate functional infrastructure with meaningful experience of landscape. His commitment to social, ecological, and aesthetic performance, along with years of working with complex institutional clients and public agencies have placed him on the forefront of design with natural and urban systems. Most notably, he has earned recognition as a pioneer in wildlife crossings, from his team's winning entry in the 2010 ARC International Wildlife Crossing Competition to his management of the world's largest wildlife crossing project: the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing near Los Angeles.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from front page

Our newest chapter board member is **Matt Smith** who volunteered to be Rare Plants chair. Matt has an Instagram account, plantsoflacounty, and is trying to photograph all 2,592 plants native to Los Angeles County.

Our Conservation co-chair **Julie Clark** works with grassroots groups, agencies, and CNPS botanists to assess natural lands slated for permanent protections or development in the Santa Monica Mountains and Calabasas/Agoura area. Included are vegetation surveys, environmental document review, and participation in the public process. Julie also works with invasive tree pests and the communities they affect.

Our other Conservation co-chair is **Joey Farewell**, who has the same role as Julie in the eastern portion of our chapter's area, from the Verdugo Hills to Griffith Park; plus Joey is active with restoration of the Elephant Hill natural area in El Sereno.

On behalf of all 1,035 CNPS members who list Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains as their primary or secondary chapter, I want to thank and applaud our chapter leaders for their service during the past year and the coming year. If any readers are inspired to assist one of our programs, please send a message to bgneill@earthlink.net. We'll find a niche for you.

Submitted by LA/SMM Chapter board members: Chapter president **Bill Neill** is a focused leader who is working to strengthen the Chapter's post-pandemic programs. He is dedicated to restoration projects primarily located in wildland and riparian areas. Bill routinely and cooperatively engages with resource and lands managers to address invasive plant control.

2024 CHAPTER BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

The following people were elected at the Dec. 12, 2023 Chapter online program:

- Bill Neill, President**
- Snowdy Dodson, Vice President**
- Mary Montes, Treasurer**
- Mary Herr, Secretary**

We thank these Chapter leaders for volunteering to continue in these positions.



**GEOLOGY TOUR
FIELD TRIP LED BY
BILL NEILL**

25 participants in first photo by Sespe conglomerate outcrop (above), down to 11 after lunch in front of Monterey Formation (below).



PLANT SALE 2023 THANKS

By Snowdy Dodson

Our Chapter leadership would like to thank our native plant sale customers for their patronage. Many thanks are also due to our gracious host venue, the **Tarzana Community Cultural Center**, guided by Executive Director, **Clare Bloom**. Our plant supplier, **Matilija Nursery (Bob Sussman)** inventoried and delivered a great variety of high-quality CA native plants. Most importantly, we had a skilled and dedicated team of volunteers to organize and deliver the plants to our customers.

Yes, hard-working volunteers who come from all over LA are key to the success of this major event for our Chapter. Plant Sale organizers **Mary Montes** and I extend heart-felt thanks to the following volunteers: **Anne Abramson, Gavin Arblaster, Karin Benson, Sam Butler, Julie Clark, David Goldstein, Steve Hartman, Christian Kiillkkaa, Annette Mercer & Alexis, Bill Neill, Jacque O'Connor, & Louise Ratliff**. Many of these folks worked more than one day to get the sale inventoried and ready for pick up. We also had excellent logistical support from **Maya Argaman & Connor Griffith** in the CNPS State Office. We are grateful to all of you who bought plants to not only support CNPS but to better the ecosystems in your own gardens. We hope that you will consider volunteering at plant sales in the future as it is fun and gratifying. Proceeds from our sale will go toward funding scholarships for local college students involved in botanical research.

HELP WANTED PLANT SALE 2024 ORGANIZERS

Mary Montes & Snowdy Dodson (with help from many other Chapter volunteers) have been chairing our Native Plant Sale Committee for the past several years. As they have retired from chairing this event, our chapter needs a new volunteer or two to be the organizers & chairs of our future Chapter native plant sales. Please contact Mary Montes – mcmontes100@hotmail.com by email or phone 747-282-6540 to volunteer or to ask for further information on what is involved. The plant sale is our main source of funds for chapter activities such as our student scholarships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chaminade Native Plants Giveaway

Date: Saturday February 10, 2024

Hours: 10am to 4pm

Campus address:

Chaminade College Preparatory High School

7500 Chaminade Avenue, West Hills 91304

Event address: Intersection of Woodhall Avenue and Keswick Street (off Satcoy Street); street parking; pedestrian entry through the north campus gate at intersection.

Contact for info & plant list: rcasey@chaminade.org or psauter@chaminade.org

Description: For the past 12 months, students at Chaminade have been propagating and growing California native and endemic plants. We have about 30 species including trees, herbs, shrubs, and grasses. Most are grown from local seed. Bring your own box to take up to 5-10 plants. Inquire about more free native plants for community restoration projects.

Chapter Officers

President

Bill Neill
(818) 769-0678
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Vice President

Snowdy Dodson
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snowdy.dodson@csun.edu

Secretary

Mary Herr
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Treasurer

Mary Montes
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Chapter Website:

lasmmcnps.org

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CHAPTER RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Send check CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Current CNPS memberships levels are: \$25, \$50, \$120, \$500, \$1000, \$2500.

Make checks payable to CNPS or online at www.cnps.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Contact Steve Hartman at

naturebase@aol.com

Be sure to notify State CNPS Office, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

TOYON Edited by Steven L. Hartman
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