HEARD OF CALSCAPE?

Do you know about Calscape? Whether you're new to native plant gardening or a seasoned expert, chances are that you need guidance and tips. Find them at www.calscape.org, a website where people can search for the best native plants for their needs. Calscape has been helping native plant gardeners bring California's beauty home for ten years. Now freshly updated, Calscape is loaded with over 8,500 California native plants and cultivars to explore and choose from, along with beautiful garden designs, tips for maintenance, a state-wide map of native plant nurseries, and a directory of credentialed landscaping professionals. All of these resources are provided free by the California Native Plant Society, the largest native plant organization in the country.

Calscape is designed to give everyone the tools they need for success with native plants. When you log on to Calscape.org, you can explore full-color plant photos and descriptions and easily find the native plants local to your area. The robust search lets you filter by growing conditions, plant size and flower color, ease of maintenance, wildlife supported, and nursery availability. And when you create a Calscape account, you can store your plant choices and Calscape garden designs, with the ability to download them for sharing or a shopping trip to your nearest nursery.

And Calscape doesn't stop there—you can match native plants with the butterflies and moths they support; design a garden based on plant communities, so you can create a garden-sized version of a desert, meadow, chaparral, or other favorite habitat; and find local native plants that grow well in containers, so you can garden on your balcony or doorstep. With over 1 million visitors a year, Calscape has something for everyone. Get started today and find the right native plant for the right place in your garden.

LA/SMM CHAPTER MATCHING FUNDRAISER

If you didn’t donate yet, we are going to ask for your donations one more time. In order to continue with special projects and offer more scholarships, we are soliciting donations from our members and supporters. The Chapter Board feels that we should have funds to pay for challenging developments that threaten native habitat. Two chapter board members have generously offered to match up to $5,000 in donations, making it possible for our chapter to raise $10,000. Please send your donations by check payable to CNPS to 15811 Leadwell Street, Van Nuys, CA 91406. Or you can donate through the web site and click Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains to earmark the donation to our chapter. SEE PAGE 6 FOR INFO ON ONLINE GIVING!
continued from front page

May 13, Tree and Shrub Associations...

Natasha conducted a bird foraging study to quantify the ecological significance of key tree and shrub species in southern California black walnut woodland habitat. She studied plant community composition, and the role plants play within food webs for avifauna. Ongoing housing development trends in Los Angeles County continues to impact black walnut woodland while also fueling gentrification. Her research will contribute to understanding what value these woodlands provide to the larger ecosystem, how to improve biodiversity conservation in fragmented urban green spaces and discuss how conservation science can better inform local stewardship efforts.

Natasha is pursuing her Master of Science degree in Environmental Science at California State University, Los Angeles. Natasha also works as a graduate research assistant in the Wood Lab of Urban and Avian Ecology at Cal State LA which involves managing a large-scale food web study to critically evaluate the role of native and nonnative plants in structuring urban food webs, composed of plants, insects, and birds, in Los Angeles County.

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June 11, Planting Natives in Summer...

In summer, the choices are narrower as many of our spring flowering natives are working on producing seeds and not flowers. Still, there are lots of choices among our California natives that can be planted in summer months that will flower and feed the wild things such as bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies all need sustenance. This presentation will concentrate on the planting and care of those flowering natives that are the easiest to plant successfully in the summer and focus on the flying wild things they feed.

After exiting a banking career in downtown Los Angeles, Bob has been growing California native plants at his nursery (http://www.matiljanursery.com) in Moorpark, Ventura County for almost 30 years. Over the years he has given numerous talks and classes on gardening with our California native plants at the Conejo Valley Adult School. He is also a major supplier of native plants to restoration and commercial projects and CNPS native plant sales as well as to retail customers who visit and shop at his nursery.
FIELD TRIPS

PLANTS AND GEOLOGY OF PLACERITA CANYON
SATURDAY, MAY 4, 9:30 AM

Docents at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center will lead a tour of the canyon’s native flora, history and geology. Placerita Canyon is a state park managed by Los Angeles County on the north side of the San Gabriel Mountains southeast of Santa Clarita. From the Antelope Valley Freeway/CA 14, exit at Placerita Canyon Road and drive east about 1.5 miles to the natural area entrance at 19152 Placerita Canyon Road. Park near the parking lot’s entrance and gather at the Acorn Amphitheater by crossing a wood bridge to the canyon's south side.

Hiking shoes are recommended for walking up the Canyon Trail that may require shallow stream crossings. Hike will end around noon with optional bring-your-own picnic lunch at the amphitheater. For logistical questions, contact Bill Neill at bgneill@earthlink.net.

MRCA BIG TUJUNGA WASH RESERVE
SATURDAY, MAY 18, 9:30 AM

This outing led by Roger Klemm will tour the xeric portion of Big Tujunga Wash where groundwater is deeper than tree roots, located between wetter, wooded areas about 4 miles apart, upstream and downstream. We will view dry wash vegetation in flood channels north of the Sunland-Tujunga community, managed since 2011 by the Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority. We hope to see vigorously blooming native shrubs after a wet winter. Meet near picnic tables in Oro Vista Park, at the corner of Oro Vista Avenue and Grove Street. From the I-210 freeway exit at Sunland Blvd., go 3/4 miles east to Oro Vista Ave., then 3/4 miles north to the park. Bring water, hat, walking shoes and appropriate clothing. Contact Bill Neill at bgneill@earthlink.net for more information.

Another Field Trip on Page 4
FIELD TRIPS continued

HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT AT CIENEGA SPRINGS ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 9:30 AM

Located next to the Santa Clara River floodplain near Fillmore, Cienega Springs Ecological Reserve is a 283-acre property of former farmland, now owned by CA Dept. Fish & Wildlife and undergoing conversion to riparian habitat by the Santa Clara River Conservancy (SCRC) and UC Santa Barbara. Our 2-hour tour will be guided by Ron Merkord, SCRC President, assisted by a staff biologist, and will discuss invasive plant removal, hydrological modifications, dispersal of native seeds, propagation and planting of native shrubs and trees from an on-site nursery.

From highway 126, turn south at Fish Hatchery Road, about one-half mile east of Fillmore City Limits, and park near the kiosk after crossing railroad tracks but before entering the fish hatchery. Our tour will include a one-mile walk on level paths to the Santa Clara River channel, with stops at wildlife viewing stations and the native plant nursery. Afterwards, you can have picnic lunch at shaded tables and/or visit the fish hatchery that closes at 2 PM. For logistical questions, contact Bill Neill at bgneill@earthlink.net.
SANTA MONICA, Calif. (March 15, 2024) — Santa Monica successfully completed Phase 2 of the Santa Monica Beach Restoration Project Thursday, which will further restore natural dune habitat on Santa Monica beach just south of the Annenberg Community Beach House.

Following a successful first phase pilot program that restored three acres of beach dunes, the second phase aims to expand to an additional five acres of native coastal strand habitat. This week's kickoff included installing post, rope and sand fencing to restrict beach city-operated grooming at the site, planting seeds of California native vegetation to promote dune growth and adding interpretive signage to educate the public about the project and the environmental benefits of native coastal habitats.

As a key initiative advancing the city’s Sustainable & Connected strategic priority, the dune restoration project combats climate change and protects coastal infrastructure and residences from sea level rise using natural barriers. The project will also expand the habitat for notable native species, including the federally threatened Western Snowy Plover. Nesting had not been recorded in the Los Angeles region for almost 70 years until the first nest in the LA region was found in April 2017 within the site for the first phase of the project.

Prior to launching the second phase of the dune restoration project, staff conducted significant stakeholder engagement, with multiple public meetings in the past year to gather community input on project design and other considerations. Supporters of this project include: LA Audubon Society, Heal the Bay, Climate Action Santa Monica, LA County Beaches and Harbors, and others, along with many Santa Monica residents. The project is funded by the Bay Foundation through the Refugio Oil Spill Trust. To read about the Beach Dune Restoration Pilot, click here.

Media Contact: Tati Simonian, Public Information Officer, Tati.Simonian@santamonica.gov

Photo © 2024 Steven Hartman

Join the Dawn Patrol in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and see sights like this.
When donating to our LA/SMM chapter by clicking the GIVE button at the top right hand corner of our chapter web site; the next window asks for amount and click the box that says “Direct my gift to:” and then click the Down arrow to the right of “Select a program” and then select “LA/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter” from the drop-down box.

Gift Designation:
- Use my gift where it is needed most
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- El Dorado Chapter
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- Monterey Chapter
- Mt. Lassen Chapter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIG DAY OF GIVING
April 18 – May 2
www.bigdayofgiving.org/cnps
More days to give this year with a focus on transforming the built environment and matching funding opportunities.

FRIENDS OF BALLONA WETLANDS
8TH ANNUAL MIGRATION CELEBRATION
Saturday, May 18, 10 AM – 2 PM
Ballona Discovery Park, 13110 Bluff Creek Dr., Los Angeles, 90094.
Celebrate wildlife and native plants, and enjoy activity booths, face painting, arts & crafts, food trucks, native plant shop (pre-order bundles at https://www.ballonafriends.org/grow-native-shop), science lab and children’s activities, live music and bird shows, Bob Baker Marionettes, docent-led tours, and more!

See lead article on front page to find out more about the latest version of Calscape.

www.calscape.org