

ARTEMISIA

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH COAST CHAPTER OF
THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

| SPRING 2023 |



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Our tables, adorned with native plant bouquets, sourced from board members' gardens, helped us stand out among the many other amazing organizations tabling around us!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

06/05

Stu Weiss- [Smog Effects on Downward Ecosystems](#)

08/06

Dr. Travis Longcore

7/10

Join us for an in person outing with pizza at the Gardena Willows Wetland!

09/11

Garden plant speaker TBD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE | BRENT MORGAN

I want to tell you about one of the less exhilarating tasks that I did recently, not because I want you to feel sorry for me, but because I came out the other side FAR more enlightened and appreciative. The task was to go back over our chapter activities for last calendar year to provide State [CNPS](#) with estimates for all the work that the chapter does. Geneva Martin, our Treasurer, has handled the financial side of the reporting for years and she supplied me with a copy of what she had submitted - As accounting must be, it was accurate down to the penny and exhaustive in its scope. I appreciated her efforts all the more when I dug into my task, which at first seemed like it was a bit of accounting drudgery until drudgery turned into exhilaration and appreciation. Here's why:

We welcomed Megan Wolff to the Board of Directors in December 2022 (our other newest Board members, Angel Garcia and Cathy Zyetz, joined us in December 2020). We emailed close to 1000 people each month for our meetings, all of which made it to [YouTube](#). We switched web sites to a CNPS-hosted site that has many fewer management issues and we have a steady stream of relevant and interesting news (one I like is an historic advertisement for manzanita bitters) in addition to our meeting notices. Our social media on Facebook and Instagram are active. We gave out about \$23,000 in Conze Bequest money to worthy [native plant garden projects](#) - about \$120k remains of the \$400k initial bequest. The annual September plant sale grossed about \$8000 in revenue. From that we realize about \$2.5 to \$3k and that is the money that we use for operating expenses, with the help of direct donations. We are very appreciative of the direct donations since despite our relatively large Conze Bequest bank balance, the chapter runs on a bit of a shoestring budget - the Conze Bequest money is not for operating expenses.

To get this all done, I estimate our Board put in a total of about 1700 hours. Now, that's an estimate, as are all the numbers here, but I would bet dollars to donuts that the real number is between 1500 and 3000 hours. Even at the low end of the estimate, that's a lot, and it doesn't count the volunteers that work at [Point Vicente Interpretive Center](#) where Megan leads monthly garden clean up sessions, nor does it count the "fun time" at general meetings when we're among many like-minded friends.

Ultimately I went away with a feeling of appreciation for the people of this chapter and the community and I hope you share the feeling now, realizing all the good that you've been part of. Between Money and People, it is patently obvious that people are the engine of the chapter.

Native Plant Allies:

We warmly invite our members to volunteer with us and our native plant allies. There are countless ways for everyone, from beginners to experts, to immerse themselves in the captivating world of native plants and collectively contribute towards the preservation and restoration of our native flora.

Southbay Parkland Conservancy:

With year round activities ranging from habitat restoration to native plant workshops, SBPC provides great opportunities to learn, volunteer, and help make a difference throughout the Southbay area. [Click here to learn more!](#)

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy:

With outdoor volunteer events, nature walks, community science events and many other opportunities, PVPLC provides a rewarding respite from our busy lives and it all takes place by our beautiful coast. [Click here to learn more!](#)

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT WEEK

The third week of April was decreed "California Native Plant Week" in 2010 under [Assembly Concurrent Resolution 173](#). The resolution acknowledged the "unparalleled and unique" value native plants offer and encourages everyone to "undertake appropriate activities to promote native plant conservation and restoration and to inform their neighbors and communities of the value of native plants". While native plant week only comes around once a year, there are many events and ways you can support native plants throughout the year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The South Coast chapter had an eventful last few months tabling at various events where we got the opportunity to share our knowledge and admiration of native plants.

If you're not familiar with "tabling" it's pretty straightforward: tabling is when chapter members volunteer man a booth or table at an event and engage with the public. It's an opportunity for members to share the mission of CNPS, highlight the importance of native plants, their garden benefits, share resources and connect with the public in a fun and informative way.

During the month of April we were thrilled to be a part of several events. One such event was the yearly [Whale of Day](#) festival in Palos Verdes where families came together to celebrate marine life along our coast with music, food, and crafts. The Mi Tierra Earth Day Celebration hosted by [Puente Latino Association](#) was another fun event we attended. With live music, group activities, and a shared sense of environmental stewardship it was a great place to connect with people from diverse backgrounds.

Tabling at these and other events allowed us to reach a wide audience ranging from nature enthusiasts to curious beginners. By creating a welcoming and inclusive space we were able to share conversations that hopefully inspired individuals to take positive changes in their gardens and communities.

This year we got to take our message beyond the general public at the [US Green Building](#) Conference and Expo. This event brought together professionals and experts from various industries interested in furthering advancements in sustainable building. By showcasing the role and benefits native plants can afford to a projects LEED certification we hoped to influence attendees to integrate native plants into future projects. It was a fruitful event that allowed us to interact with other organizations, forging new connections that will benefit our communities.

Our impact at these events cannot be understated. If you'd like to volunteer and learn more about native plants reach out at membership@sccnps.org

NATIVE PLANT BOUQUETS

In keeping with tradition the South Coast chapter delivered more than 15 native plant bouquets to local officials and public spaces during the month of April. Chapter Secretary, Rosalie Preston, crafted various bouquets with beautiful native flowers cut responsibly from her own garden.

The bouquets are meant to show the public how beautiful native plants can be. We all read and heard about the spectacular blooms we had this year but not everyone had the chance to see them in person. These bouquets allow people to see native flowers up close and really appreciate their unique beauty. The brochures delivered along with them share valuable information about native plants and CNPS.

This year bouquets were delivered to libraries, city halls, and representatives like Senator Ben Allen and Congressman Nanette Barragan's office. With the abundant rains many gardens are seeing lots of blooms. If you crafted a native plant bouquet with flowers from your garden we'd love to see it and share it with other members to spread the beauty! If you'd like to help with next year's bouquets or have a suggestion for where we should deliver one please reach out!



Katy Geisert Main Library



Senator Ben Allen



Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi

CONSERVATION

The Portuguese Bend landslide is a problem that the city of Rancho Palos Verdes has been monitoring and mitigating for many years. The city recently published a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the [Portuguese Bend Landslide Remediation](#) project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

A DEIR, is a document that provides an assessment of the potential impacts a proposed project may have on the surrounding environment. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the factors like water quality and preservation of surrounding ecosystems among many other factors. As a public document the purpose is to provide the public and decision-makers at the local and state level with enough information to make a more informed decision.

When DEIRs are made public it is vital for the public, experts, and related organizations to review and exercise their right to provide feedback on the proposed project. Comments can bring attention to overlooked environmental consequences or concerns about certain aspects of the project. Organizations like CNPS have the opportunity to pool their knowledge and expertise on certain subjects to share informed comments. The South Coast chapter's Conservation Chair, Megan Wolff, submitted a [consensus comment](#) on the planned Portuguese Bend Landslide Remediation project. The letter is available to read in its entirety on our website.

The letter includes the comments and opinions of various South Coast chapter members like Brent Morgan, Cris Sarabia, and allies like Al and Barbara Satler. The collective knowledge and expertise of those involved brought attention to sensitive habitats and special-status plant species. The letter highlights flaws in conclusions made in the DEIR by studies that don't adequately translate to our coastal sage scrub community. Concerns were brought up about proposed materials and their incompatibility with vegetation and possible unintended pollution as well as the lack of information on certain topics that limits complete analysis of the project.

This letter along with other comment letters and the collective voices of the public advocating for better protection and consideration of our ecosystem serve as a reminder to decision makers that environmental concerns should be considered more deeply. By staying informed and voicing our support we can safeguard our native plants to create a more resilient habitat.

BLOOMING CONNECTION | N. COOPER

As a physical therapist, I've dedicated my life to helping people improve their physical well-being. To go beyond their instrumental activities of daily living and take part in activities that bring them joy. I thought I had a connection to the outdoors because I enjoyed leading outdoor fitness programs like 100 Citizens and hiking throughout southern California. I thought the vibrant yellow fields of mustard were beautiful (I've since learned otherwise). But prior to my visit to a super bloom my knowledge of native and invasive plants was limited, just like my actual connection to nature. .

I had seen pictures plastered on social media and traditional media in the past. I knew I was expecting a beautiful sight but being there in person was overwhelming. The colors and joy of walking among the blooms reminded me of a color run. The same vibrant colors abounded, the same heightened sense of joy and excitement flourished with every step I took. My amazement of the great expanse of flowers was matched by the delicate little details that made each plant unique.

Taking the time to get down and smell the flowers was a stark difference to my typical hike. And I wasn't the only one with my nose in the flowers. Watching the bees and other pollinators dance around from one flower to the next really helped me grasp the interconnectedness of it all. Because my hikes were always goal driven and while the goal was sometimes finding the best views I had never fully appreciated what goes into making the views. Going forward I will still covet beautiful nature shots for my posts but this experience gave me a new perspective. I look forward to sharing what makes the plants in my pictures so special and contribute my pictures to iNaturalist.

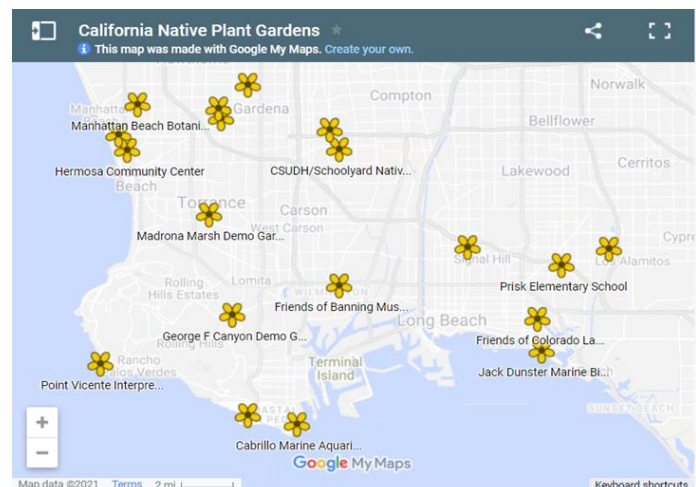
Seeing what once were barren hills and learning that seed banks often sit for years until the conditions are optimal for a super bloom helped me appreciate the resiliency of nature. Despite our record droughts and worsening climate challenges I was reminded of the message of perseverance I try to instill in my patients. I've recommended gardening to countless patients because I was taught it's a great low impact way to get physical activity. Moving forward I will recommend not only gardening but gardening with native plants and taking the time to really discover the wonders that we can bring into our homes.

I encourage everyone to take a walk and get your physical activity in while immersing yourself in nature, even if it's your own yard, your neighbors' garden, or your local park. In our fast-paced world it's up to us to take care of our bodies and we should feel that same sense of care for our environment. —N. Cooper

WHERE TO FIND NATIVE PLANTS

With the abundant rains we had this winter season we've seen large amount of blooms throughout southern California. While the super blooms are a treasured sight you don't have to travel far to see and experience the enchantment of our native flora. Many of the publically accessible native garden within our chapter can be found on our [native garden map](#)

If you've visited any of our many local hiking spots and would like to share your story or pictures with our members reach out to our newsletter editor Angel Garcia.



Artemisia

Artemisia is the membership newsletter of the South Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, a nonprofit organization.

South Coast Chapter CNPS, 23600 Telo Ave, Suite 130, Torrance CA 90505. Website www.sccnps.org Our chapter encompasses South Los Angeles County, ranging from LAX in the north, Long Beach in the south, and to Whittier in the east. We have members in more than 30 cities.

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please email membership@sccnps.org

The mission of CNPS is to conserve California native plants and their natural habitats and increase understanding, appreciation, and horticultural use of native plants.

California Native Plant Society, 2701 K St., Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816-5113. Phone 916-447-2677

Email cnps@cnps.org Website www.cnps.org

Have something to share?

If you have questions, comments, or would like to submit an article, announcement, or event to the newsletter please email Angel Garcia at angel.garcia.144@my.csun.edu



Check out the [South Coast CNPS YouTube](#) channel for recordings of our general meetings and other chapter related events.



Stay up to date and connect with us on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts.

President	Brent Morgan
Vice President/Newsletter Editor	Angel Garcia
Secretary	Rosalie Preston
Treasurer	Geneva Martin
Horticulture Chair	Tony Baker
Conservation	Megan Wolff
At Large	David Berman
At Large (Outreach)	Cathy Zyetz
At Large	Cris Sarabia

C N P S M E M B E R S H I P

For Credit cards: Renew your CNPS membership online. As an option, set it up to **renew automatically** year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs. www.cnps.org.

CNPS Membership	
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$ 2,500
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Go Perennial! Skip the hassle of renewal deadlines and set up an automated monthly donation starting at \$5/month. Sign up at CNPS.org/perennial-membership

Make your check out to "CNPS" and mail with this form to:
CNPS, 2707 K St, Suite 1, Sacramento CA 95816-5113

Affiliation: South Coast Chapter

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