



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter Newsletter

CHAPTER MEETING

November 21, 2023

In-person meeting

Casa del Prado Rm 101, Balboa Park

7:00 Browsing & socializing

7:30 Announcements & Presentation

Chapter meetings are free and open to the public.

Presentation

Workforce strategy for restoration in the urban canyons of San Diego by Clayton Tschudy

"San Diego Canyonlands' mission is to promote, protect, and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County's canyons and creeks. We do this by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations."

Following Eric Bowlby's original vision for cleaning up and restoring San Diego Canyon spaces that was inspired by CNPS, Canyonlands hires staff to train and implement invasive species removal, management and monitoring, seed collection for restoration, and training for jobs sorely needed and well received by the communities they serve. Our canyons were once used solely for utility lines and stamped down with neglect, encampments, and roadways. Canyonlands endeavors to make these remaining crucial habitat areas thrive. This holiday, we are thrilled to present one of our most ardent partners and congratulate them on their strategic and funding success in Manzanita Canyon and beyond. They are providing the model for how citywide restoration projects are feasible and well worth every penny and ounce of effort.



Canyonlands Executive Director Clayton Tschudy, formerly a CNPSSD Board Member, administrates Canyonlands with the guidance of a volunteer board of stakeholders, many of whom are CNPS members and allies. He also operates Tschudy

Ecological Designs, which focuses on ecological restoration and horticultural landscape design with a focus on Southern California flora.

NATIVE GARDENING COMMITTEE

No Committee Meeting This Month

The Garden Committee and volunteers had a busy October! During November we will have small group meetings for Garden Tour planning and Bird Park prep for December planting.

October Native Plant Maintenance Workshop

The Native Plant Maintenance Workshop at Pt Loma Native Garden filled up quickly! We are sorry we couldn't fit everyone



Greg Rubin & Leo Hernandez. Photo: C.Hoey

on the waitlist into the workshop. **Greg Rubin** and **Leo Hernandez** gave a discussion on tool maintenance, pruning techniques and controlling Argentine ants. Pruning demonstrations by Leo gave attendees a chance to prune deergrass (*Mulenbergia rigens*), *Salvia* species, desert olive (*Forestiera pubescens*), and *Ceanothus* species.



Leo Hernandez instructs group. Photo: S. Gathmann

Future workshops will be announced *first to Garden Committee members* and then to the general CNPSSD membership. If you would like to join the Garden Committee, we welcome novice to experienced native gardeners. Sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/GE9S4U1ja8BvXUCz6>

Bird Park Update

We just got word that San Diego City Parks and Rec will (hopefully) be installing irrigation in our next “feather” plot at Bird Park in mid-November. If all goes well, we hope to do workshops in December to install the hardscape and native plants.



La Jolla Country Day School 9th Grade Students. Photo: C. Hoey

In the meantime, it's ***all hands on deck*** to weed and prep this plot for December planting - and there are a lot of weeds! We had weed removal help in October with the **La Jolla Country Day School 9th grade class** - they made a dent in removing the worst weeds and we so appreciate their help!

If you would like to volunteer at Bird Park, please join us in expanding native plant habitat in this community park. Sign up at this link: <https://forms.gle/tqNFKyoJ7FwAdfei7>

Calling All Artists!

Calling all artists to join us at the **CNPS San Diego 2024 Native Garden Tour** on **April 6 & 7, 2024**. We're looking for talented individuals in various art forms, such as fine art painting, pottery, photography, textiles, mosaics, sculptures, and mixed media to be part of this exciting event.



This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your artwork, giving visitors a chance to appreciate your creative talents. Artwork must be native plant/garden related, original and unique. Watercolor (left) by **Margaret Gallagher**.

To showcase your artwork at the Native Garden Tour apply by **December 1st** at this link: [2024 Garden Tour Artist Sign Up](#)

CNPS San Diego 2024 Native Garden Tour Seeking Native Gardens in Poway & Coastal San Diego



We are almost there - but we need YOU!

We have a few great native gardens lined up, but we need more! If you live in **Poway** or **Coastal San Diego** and your garden

is planted with 60% or more California native plants, please apply at this link: [2024 Native Garden Tour](#) For more information, contact Silke Gathmann or Christine Hoey at gardentour@cnpsd.org

Upcoming Fall Events

November 4 - Moosa Creek Sip N Shop



The CNPSSD Garden Committee and the CNPSSD Bookstore with Cindy Burrascano will be at the "Sip & Shop" event. Sage Against the Machine will be performing, too!

November 11 - Native West Fall Fest



Come join the festivities featuring California native plants, live music, artisan and farmer markets, design consultations and more. The CNPSSD Native Gardening Committee will be there too, so stop by to say hello and get started early on your holiday shopping! Native West Nursery is at 1755 Saturn Blvd, San Diego, CA 92154.

December 3 - Holiday Wreath Making Workshop



Native Wreath by Maryanne Bache.

Embrace the festive season and join us in crafting your very own beautiful holiday wreath! The **Garden Committee** and **Moosa Creek Nursery** warmly invite you to a delightful wreath making workshop, led by **Maryanne Bache**. Join us from 9 am to 12 pm at Moosa Creek Nursery.

We've got everything you need right here, from fresh and dried native plant cuttings, plus all the trimmings, so let your creativity bloom. For your own garden, native plant species used in the wreaths will be available for purchase at a discount. Refreshments are included followed by a native Christmas Tree pop up. It's a day of holiday magic you don't want to miss! Space is limited, so sign up early at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ca-native-plant-wreath-making-workshop-tickets-738929908247?aff=oddtcreator>

Happy Fall Planting!

*Christine Hoey & Silke Gathmann
Garden Committee Co-chairs*

SEED CLEANING PARTY

**Saturday November 18
9 am - Noon**

Location: Tecalote Nature Center

(Note morning time!) We will package up some new seed and, if we finish packaging, we may move on to cleaning seeds if time allows. Please let me know if you will attend. Please feel free to bring snacks, seeds to donate or potted plants to share with the group, and please bring your own drink! Please do not come if you are having flu or COVID symptoms. We can set up tables outside for folks who would rather work outdoors.

BONUS ANNOUNCEMENT - Vince's home grown corms are now on sale at the online seed store (www.canativeseeds.com) or go straight to the corms at this link:

<https://cnpsd.us19.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a16e91d3cb6fef352eba4421b&id=a511b495bc&e=df5b4ef0b8>

- *Brodiaea elegans* (Harvest Brodiaea)
- *Brodiaea kinkiensis* (San Clemente Island Brodiaea)
- *Brodiaea orcuttii* (Orcutt's Brodiaea)
- *Brodiaea pallida* (Chinese Camp Brodiaea)
- *Triteleia hyacinthina* (White Brodiaea)
- *Triteleia laxa* (Ithuriel's Spear)

~ Cindy Hazuka, seedsandbulbs@cnpsd.org

OCTOBER PLANT SALE REPORT

The 2023 Fall Plant Sale was an amazing success, thanks to all our volunteers and customers who came out to Liberty Station on October 14! We've clenched the title for largest single day native plant sale held in California by a CNPS chapter, selling an estimated ~5,000 plants, and enough merchandise, including books and seeds, to rake in nearly \$50K for the chapter. After expenses, the ~\$15K in excess revenue will go towards supporting more functions and events, scholarships, garden grants, research, and much more over 2024 and beyond. That's approaching 30% in returns, though we'll know the exact figures over the next month as tax is paid, fees are bitten out, expenses are tallied, and accounts are settled. With the amazingly positive feedback we've gotten about the change in venue and set up, it is very likely that we'll see a return to this location or a similar one next time, maybe a little further from the airport runway?

It's been a challenge to adapt our plant sale to a new location outside of Balboa Park, but overall, the additional space and wider plan allowed for a more relaxed event. The partial solar eclipse following Friday the 13th was a unique event and next year will be a tall order to have extraordinary natural phenomena during the sale. We were able to innovate with more space and brought on some new volunteers and battle-hardened veterans that definitely deserve some well-earned recognition: To **Mary Kiss** & her husband **George** for designing some very handy postcards for beginner gardeners and doing some over the top lifting and providing much needed pep! To **Cindy Burrascano** for helping organize over 80+ volunteers. To **Kera Heimlich** who came on the plant sale team and provided some wonderful marketing flyers for social media and the newsletter. To **Christine Hoey** for keeping people nourished and appreciated and for bringing solar eclipse viewing glasses for us! To **Erika Daniel** who patiently led the sale through the cashiers' tent and made sure we stayed the course as professionals against her husband's devil may care business approach. To our new contractors **Emily Sluiman** in social media and **Tim Cart** for posting website updates! To **Kay Stewart**, **Donna Payton**, **Jim Gordon**, and **Leon Scales** who offered, so wonderfully and crucially, to hold plants afterwards in the mad dash to clean up the venue. To our plant tagging crews and experts and vendors and partners and growers and friends. To **Andrew Johnson** and **David Gassen** for watching the plants overnight and preventing any danger befalling the sale setup. I heard there was a possible incursion by a stray cat, so thanks for diverting a disaster! **And to everyone I can't**

mention by name lest the newsletter go to fifteen pages - Thank you!

If you missed our partner displays and tents, here's a list of their groups:

- [San Diego Audubon Society](#)
- [San Diego County Water Authority](#)
- [Earth Discovery Institute](#)
- [Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation](#)
- [San Diego Botanic Garden](#)
- [San Diego Open Space Division Rangers](#)
- [San Diego Soils Ecology and Restoration Group](#) (SERG)
- [Fred M. Roberts Publications](#) (and top tier botanical surveys)

And finally places where we got plants or recommend visiting to buy native plants:

- [Neel's Nursery \(Encinitas\)](#)
- [Moosa Creek Nursery](#) ([List of participating nurseries that sell MC plants](#))
- [Native West Nursery \(Nestor / Imperial Beach\)](#)
- [Tree of Life Nursery \(San Juan Capistrano\)](#)
- [El Nativo Nursery \(Azusa\)](#)

~ **Justin Daniel**, Chapter President 2023



Left: **Cindy Saylor**, **Mary Kiss**, **Erika Daniel**, **Sherry Ashbaugh** tagging plants at Tree of Life Nursery. Photo: **Justin Daniel**

Cindy Saylor does some quality control (and pre-shopping) as set up nears completion. Photo: **Justin Daniel**



The Friday the 13th calm before the storm. Photo: **Justin Daniel**



Photo: Silke Gathmann.

(Next month's newsletter will have additional photos.)

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public Outreach at Crestridge Ecological Reserve

On Saturday morning October 7th, I accepted a public outreach opportunity at the Crestridge Ecological Reserve in El Cajon. The Earth Discovery Institute (EDI) sponsored a small native plant sale, and invited CNPS to attend and host an outreach table. The event was a slow but steady stream of people interested in buying native plants for their home landscapes. A small greenhouse staffed by EDI volunteers contained several local plant species available for purchase, and some people had already placed a pre-order. I had a chance to talk with a good number of people who had questions, and the audience in general was genuinely interested in native plants. Several people also signed up to receive our chapter newsletter.

The reserve has several hiking trails, and an oak grove, a greenhouse, and sculptures near a small building where you can sit and read. The vegetation is healthy, and evidence of restoration work can be observed. If you have not visited this reserve yet, I suggest you put it on your calendar to do so.

~ Sherry Ashbaugh, Public Outreach Coordinator

CNPS-SD BOARD NEWS

November Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 – 9:00ish pm via Zoom. To add an item to the agenda, or to get the link to the meeting, please email president@cnpsd.org.

Chapter Board Election

The Chapter Board of Directors weigh and make decisions that affect our many Chapter committees including budget, administrative duties, and recordkeeping, among other business. All Board members attend the monthly Board meeting on the second Wednesday evening every month via Zoom. You are eligible if you are a current member of CNPS, have a passion for native plants and want to volunteer to

support the CNPS mission and vision. If you have any questions, please reach out to vicepresident@cnpsd.org

Voting this year among the membership will occur through the mail using the ballot inserted in this newsletter, or you can bring your ballot to the chapter meeting the evening of November 21. Due to the lag in postal service, please keep in mind that ballots may take additional time to be received and may not be counted if postmarked later than November 21, the day of the November chapter meeting.

CNPS San Diego has eleven (11) members of the Executive Board whose term of service is two (2) years. Five members are usually elected in the odd numbered years; 6 are elected in even numbered years. 5 current board members are running for another term. One other board member is needed this year to fill a vacancy on the Board. If you are interested in being a board member, or know a CNPSSD member who is, you can write their names in on this ballot. If you are writing in another person, be sure that person is willing to serve on the board.

Following are brief bios for the five people on the ballot:

Sundee Amin: I've been working in San Diego and southern California as an ecologist for the past 20 years while being a resident of San Diego for the past 34 years and going. I love all things plants and animals and am lucky to work with both for a living. Currently I'm focused on taking degraded sites and restoring them back to a natural state for the benefit of native plants and animals, a lot of them being sensitive or even listed species. I'm excited to help CNPS San Diego expand on all the good things they're already doing and try to help educate folks on the importance of native systems and species.

Sherry Ashbaugh: My experience with environmental issues began as a child, as my father is an avid outdoorsman and my mother still enjoys gardening. This upbringing led to a B.S. degree in Biology and Ecology, along with a year's worth of master's level coursework in Natural Resources Management. My entire 32-year career included environmental impact studies, permit applications, and natural and cultural resources surveys, along with land use planning. I also have previous Board of Directors experience with multiple organizations, some with an environmental focus. I am currently the Committee Chair for Public Outreach, and also participate with the Seeds and Bulbs, Gardening and Habitat Restoration committees. I also lead the native plant volunteer team at the San Carlos Community Garden. If I had to choose only one, which is a really tough choice for me, I would select the red snapdragons as my favorite native plants, since they are loved by the hummingbirds in my backyard!

Bob Byrnes: I have been a member of the CNPS for nearly nine years. Having retired from laboratory research, and most recently, from a position as research programmer at UCSD, I recognized the outstanding beauty and other tangible as well as intangible qualities associated with our native plant life very quickly. Presently I am co-chair of the chapter Habitat Restoration Committee, helping lead efforts to control invasive plants in San Diego open space parks and on private properties.

Justin Daniel: Since 2019, I've had the pleasure, pain, and satisfaction of successful efforts in helping lead the San Diego Chapter through times of challenge and change. I'm looking forward to another term on the Board of Directors for the Chapter and hope to earn your vote. My background is in natural resource management and small-scale development planning, focusing on sustainable and minimal impact design in accordance with avoidance of sensitive resources and CEQA + agency compliance. I work as an independent environmental consultant with a focus on vegetation ecology, though this may change as opportunities have opened recently. As a board member, I hope to continue to work for the mission of CNPS in any way I can.

Silke Gathmann: I joined the CNPS San Diego board in early 2023. I have co-directed the 2023 CNPS San Diego Native Garden Tour and continue to serve in this role for next year as well. Additionally, I serve as the co-chair of the Native Gardening Committee and have been actively involved in our efforts to modernize the chapter's website. With a background in horticulture and landscape design, my journey with native plants began in 2007 with the German organization "Naturgarten e.V." During my time there, I was responsible for organizing their annual native plant gardening conference and served on the board. When it became clear that my husband and I would move to California, I wasted no time becoming a CNPS member. Upon my arrival in California, it was love at first sight with California native plants, and my passion for them continues to grow.

October Board Meeting Summary

The Board approved using vernal pool restricted funds to get a dumpster for greens waste removal from invasive removal work at the Miramar vernal pool complex, subject to approval by USFWS personnel for that use of funds. Approved minigrants for tool acquisition by Vulcan Mountain Foundation and a planting of natives at Rosa Parks Elementary school. Nominated Justin Daniel to serve as the CNPS representative for the North County MSCP Stakeholders group. Justin had to do a new plan for the plant sale layout due to wet ground that may still be problematic for the plant sale but otherwise things look on schedule for the plant sale. Details on the State Chapter Council meeting in Dec (1-3) are still being worked out (Board Dec 1 meeting location, evening speaker for Dec 2, and one remaining fieldtrip needed). The Spring Garden Tour is planned to be a 2-day event the first weekend in April 2024. One day will include Poway gardens and another coastal gardens. The Garden Committee has a series of workshops coming up: installation of hardscape for the Bird Park extension and a subsequent planting day, and a Dec 3 Wreath making day.

~ **Cindy Burrascano**, CNPSSD Vice President

September Board Meeting Summary

Other than approving the proposed agenda and the August board meeting minutes, no other motions were considered by the Board.

Discussion items:

- State CNPS approval of contracts for our two new IT contractors.
- Chapter Board openings and the upcoming chapter Board election.
- Potential changes to chapter committee leads.
- Cindy Burrascano will finish 2023 as Vice President and Bobbie Stephenson will finish the year as Secretary.
- Fall plant sale at Liberty Station and other locations where a plant sale could be held.
- Chapter Council San Diego Meeting for December 2023.
- The Spring 2024 CNPSSD Native Garden Tour.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

~ **Bobbie Stephenson**, Chapter Secretary

Remember CNPS San Diego Chapter on Giving Tuesday, November 28, 2023



Whether it's doing an act of kindness, speaking out, or donating to a favorite nonprofit (CNPS-SD), every act of generosity counts and each means more when we give together. Our mailing address is on the back of this newsletter. Thank you!!!

IN THE FIELD

Hot Springs Mountain By Tom Oberbauer

(Photos by the author)

On Friday, November 4, 2022, I rose early and picked up Judy Gradwahl for a hike up Hot Springs Mountain. The previous Wednesday, the mountains of San Diego County received precipitation with some falling as snow at the higher elevations. The projection for Friday was cold temperatures so I brought a variety of clothing layers and a larger jacket. On the other hand, Hot Springs Mountain is known for its warm spring, summer and fall temperatures and high incidence of flying insects, gnats and flies. I brought bug nets just in case we needed them.

It took nearly two hours to drive to the trail head. It is necessary to go online to purchase a permit to hike on the mountain from the Los Coyotes reservation. We showed it to the guard when we arrived. The car thermometer indicated that it was 32 degrees at various locations as we were driving into the trail starting point. However, the sun seemed warm so I hiked with a denim shirt and light fleece jacket. The first two miles is a steep climb with no shade so we would be warmed up quickly. However, one thing that was sure was that insects were not a

problem and we did not need the head nets due to the cool temperatures.

The good thing was that this area had received a large amount of rain during the summer. Ranchita had received over 8 inches. This area, which is higher, must have received at least that much and likely more. In fact, the Hot Springs Mountain area may receive the greatest amount of summer rain in San Diego County based on observations of thunderstorm radar signatures.

The initial climb was steep and it warmed up quickly due to the effort of the climb. The old road was heavily eroded. I believe it being the Sukat Road, it was not the one that I had ridden on



before more than 45 years ago. While attending San Diego State University, Paul Zucker taught a class in Forest Ecology. Each of us was assigned or actually selected a tree that we would study. My tree was *Pinus lambertiana*, Sugar pine (left).

A population of Sugar pine was known from Hot Springs Mountain so I convinced my brothers to go up there with my older brother driving his 1967

Plymouth Barracuda – far from an off-road vehicle. We had no problem driving up the mountain and finding Sugar pine trees.

About two thirds of the way up the mountain Sukat Road intersects the main Hot Springs Mountain Road that we drove years ago. Fortunately for hikers, the Sukat Road is three miles shorter each way for the climb up the mountain than the Hot Springs Mountain Road.

The Sukat Road and the part of the Hot Springs Mountain Road that goes beyond the junction between the two roads is not traveled much these days by vehicles. It would be impossible for a Plymouth Barracuda or any two-wheel drive vehicle to drive on the road.



In the lower parts, we passed some Giant four o'clock (*Mirabilis multiflora*, left) that had a coating of frost and one that looked like it was damaged by frost.

The lower part of the Sukat Road was within an extensive oak woodland with *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast live oak) as the dominant but also some *Pinus coulteri* (Coulter pine) as well, appearing to poke out of the woodland canopy. The trail quickly climbed into chaparral with *Adenostoma sparsifolia* (Red shank), *Cercocarpus betuloides* (Mountain mahogany), and *Quercus X acutidens* (Scrub oak).



Farther up, *Quercus chrysolepis* (Canyon live oak) was growing with some multitrunk monsters like fairy rings. *Garrya veatchii* (Silk tassel bush; above) was growing along with *Arctostaphylos pungens* (Point leaf manzanita), and *Ceanothus perplexans* (Cup leaf ceanothus).

Farther up, we came across *Quercus kelloggii* (California black oak) trees (right) that had turned a nice yellow-orange color, as well as *Pinus jeffreyi* (Jeffrey pine) including young trees. Rusty bark



colored *Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense cedar) also began to appear and small remnant patches of snow in the shade. There were also understory plants such as *Symphoricarpos albus* (Snowberry). Farther up, the road still climbed but not as steeply, and it entered a full forest similar to those of Cuyamaca and Palomar Mountains. The snow was only a small remnant of the previous dusting but the ground was crunchy in places due to the cold temperatures in the north slope shade.



Chartreuse colored Wolf lichen (*Letharia vulpine*, left) was also common on the tree trunks. Dead skeletons of trees poked through the upper canopy appearing to be Incense cedars, but there were also young Incense Cedars growing up in the shade. *Abies concolor* (White fir) was also in this area. The dead trees and dead undergrowth had been cut and stacked up in some areas, but it looked like the

forest was in better shape due to less density than some of the other places in San Diego County forests. The Incense cedars that were large were striking in appearance. The stump of one tree that had been cut was approaching 2.5 feet across or a bit larger, and it was well over 200 years old.

The road continued to climb but it also had some downhill stretches. That meant uphill on the way back. After the initial crossing of the forest, the trail road passed out into the open again with ground cover of *Eriogonum wrightii* (Foothill buckwheat) and *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* (Sand aster) surrounded by thickets of *Quercus X acutidens* of varying sizes and *Frangula californica* (California coffee berry).

Climbing higher, the view to the south provided a visual observation of the golden Black oaks on the north slope and the Volcan Mountain with visible pines on the ridge top and Cuyamaca Mountains even farther south. At one point, we could see golden hued oaks on the north slope of the San Ysidro Mountains north of Ranchita. There were even more huge trunked *Quercus chrysolepis* that must be multi-hundreds of years old. In some puddle areas along the road, leaves of the Black oaks were frozen into ice. The mix of pines which also includes *Pinus ponderosa* (Ponderosa pine) and its prickly scaled cones and plate like bark panels, *Pinus jeffreyi* and *Pinus coulteri* as well as some Incense Cedar and White fir created a beautiful scene.

While we were walking, no one else was on the mountain at least for the early part of the day. The actual peak itself is offset from the location of the old decaying lookout tower that stood for decades as part of an early warning fire defense system that has been replaced by remote sensing in many locations. We walked over to direction of the peak and found ourselves climbing through a dwarfed forest of oaks with yellow leaves and a thicker layer of hard crusted snow on the ground. It was necessary to step carefully to avoid slipping but a pleasant experience because the entire atmosphere was really cold there. I put on my layer of jackets because it was so cold there. *Pinus lambertiana* (Sugar pine) were growing in this area. I had been searching for them and I was happy to see them still thriving. In fact, the trees did not appear to be very old. The tops of the taller trees had ice bound to the needles.

The actual highest point of the peak is on top of a large boulder the size of a two-story house. Someone had rigged an aluminum ladder tied with shoestrings to an old piece of steel pin that was driven into the rock. From there, an old nylon strap was tied to a few other steel pins along the outside of the boulder on a sloping shelf. It did not appear to be a stable arrangement. I climbed the ladder to check the strap. It would not be too difficult to pull up, even considering that the strap was on the outside of the slope making it difficult to use safely. The biggest problem for me would have been how to get back down. Because the strap was on the outside, I would have had to back down but its outside location limited its ability to assist me to keep from falling over the side. I decided against it and Judy agreed. A confident climber of average height probably would not have a problem.



Snow near the highest point.

We walked back to the old tower location. It was falling down piece by piece with old rotting boards containing nails strewn about on the slope below the east side. However, on the west side, the slope is almost vertical and it looks across the Caliente Wilderness Area.



When I was there last year, I marveled at the steep slope extending down from the peak into a deep canyon. Now, I was on the other side looking down into the wilderness area over a dense forest that flows into the canyon. It was really exciting to see it from this side. Over to the south, the view (below) was

across the extensive forest with a good amount of California black oaks in their golden color, with Warner Valley farther behind.



The entire route, there and back was approximately ten miles with a significant elevation gain and loss. If one has the physical capabilities, it is well worth a visit, particularly in the late fall after the flies have hopefully diminished as they had the day I was there. During the entire hike, we saw 7 other people on a weekday.

The walk back was pleasant. The change in lighting from the early morning to midafternoon provided a different aspect to the colors and shadows of the mountainous terrain. Hot Springs Mountain is an inspirational place for anyone with an interest in San Diego County wildlands, especially in the fall after the *Quercus kelloggii* begin to change color.



RECENT RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS

How to help save plants from extinction: Predicting their demise could keep them alive

Now is the time to identify the conditions that cause plants to die. Doing so will allow us to better protect plants by choosing conservation targets more strategically, UC Riverside botanists argue in a new paper.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/10/231017123443.htm>

Malacothamnus Research

Message from **Keir Morse**: “I have published my *Malacothamnus* research as a three-volume, open-access monograph of the genus, which was partially funded by CNPS grants. Most people will only be interested in the third volume, which includes a new treatment of the genus, conservation assessments, distribution maps, and lots of photos. For those who want to dig deeper, the first two volumes go into the details of the evidence used in making the taxonomic decisions for the treatment. Volume 2 also describes three new species. Links to all three volumes, two earlier *Malacothamnus* papers, and a couple video presentations on *Malacothamnus* can be found [here \(https://keiriosity.com/malacothamnus/\)](https://keiriosity.com/malacothamnus/)

The main thing of relevance to the San Diego Chapter is that I've brought back the varieties of *Malacothamnus densiflorus*. The characters used in past treatments to separate the varieties only worked to separate more or less robust plants, which is why they were so confusing. The characters I use are the length and density of the hairs on the plant. These perfectly separate the two varieties. *Malacothamnus densiflorus* var. *viscidus* is known only from on and near Otay Mountain, making it fit in with the many other rare plants from that region. *Malacothamnus densiflorus* var. *densiflorus* is much more common.”

Keir is taking a break from giving presentations but his dissertation presentation is available at the website listed above and he says people are welcome to contact him if they have questions.

The CNPS-SD Newsletter is generally published 12 times a year. The newsletter is not peer reviewed and any opinions expressed are those of the author identified at the end of each notice or article. The newsletter editor may edit the submittal to improve accuracy, improve readability, shorten articles to fit the space, and reduce the potential for legal challenges against CNPS. If an article, as edited, is not satisfactory to the author, the author can appeal to the board. The author has the final say on whether the article, as edited, is printed in the newsletter. Submissions are due by the 10th of the month preceding the newsletter; that is November 10 for the December newsletter, etc. Please submit items to newsletter@cnpsd.org

CNPS-SD Activities Calendar November 2023

- 11/8: Board Meeting, via Zoom, p.4
- 11/21: Chapter Meeting, in person, p.1
- 11/18: Seed Sorting Party, in person, p.3

[\(https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/\)](https://www.meetup.com/San-Diego-County-Native-Plant-Discoverers-Meetup/)

Please check www.cnpsd.org for activities that may have been scheduled after this newsletter was prepared.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

<https://www.cnps.org/membership>

___ Student/Limited Income \$25; ___ Individual \$50; ___ Plant Lover \$120; ___ Supporter \$500; ___ Patron \$1,000; ___ Benefactor \$2,500; ___ Perennial Monthly Sustainer Memberships starting at \$5/mo. provide much needed predictable income for our programs. Your indicated gift will be automatically repeated each month. Pls see <https://www.cnps.org/membership> to sign up for this membership level.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Mail check payable to "CNPS" and send to: CNPS, 2707 K Street, Ste 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5113.

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

San Diego Chapter
C/o San Diego Natural History Museum
P. O. Box 121390
San Diego, CA 92112-1390



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November 2023 Newsletter

Dedicated to the preservation of the California native flora
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY – SAN DIEGO

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