



CNPS CHAPTER POSTER ABSTRACTS

Skyline Gardens – Preserving a Hidden Gem in the East Bay Hills

Beth Wurzburg, Glen Schneider, Jim Hanson
CNPS East Bay Chapter

“Skyline Gardens” is the informal name of a narrow hiking trail that runs through an astonishingly diverse hillside along the spine of the East Bay Hills. The trail runs through East Bay Municipal Utility District Land (EBMUD), and a coalition of mountain biking groups petitioned EBMUD to open this and other trails to mountain biking. Using a variety of conservation actions, EBCNPS and its allies successfully petitioned EBMUD to preserve this biodiversity hotspot as a de facto preserve, using an array of conservation activities.

CNPS Rare Plant Treasure Hunt at Pine Hill and CDFW Fuels Reduction Project

Debra Ayres, Alice Cantelow-Lubekin, Lisa Couper, Melanie Gogol-Prokurat, Lester Lubekin, Sarah Powell, Annie Walker
CNPS El Dorado Chapter

The El Dorado Chapter spent 280 person-hours working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on a fuels reduction project around the perimeter of Pine Hill in Rescue. Creeping along narrow people-trails cut through the dense chaparral, the chapter located, mapped, and flagged rare plants and delimited burn areas where these plants were absent. As the perimeter of Pine Hill is land-locked by private property, this was a unique opportunity for the chapter to conduct a Rare Plant Treasure Hunt (RPTH) on incompletely or never surveyed areas on the lower slopes of Pine Hill. Volunteers found about 70 unreported and 20 reported occurrences of five species federally listed as threatened or endangered, as well as two state listed species, and designated hundreds of burn sites. After the shrub thickets are removed and burned by CDFW the chapter anticipates future RPTHs along the Pine Hill perimeter to finish mapping, and to evaluate the effect of fire on these fire-adapted species.

Collaborating to Restore Bakersfield Cactus in Kern County

Dinah Campbell, Fred Chynoweth, Lucy Clark
CNPS Kern Chapter

The Kern Chapter collaborated with three land preserves in the county to collect, grow, and plant new stands of the endangered Bakersfield Cactus, *Opuntia basilaris treleasei*, to provide new stands in protected areas. The chapter's hope is to reverse historic losses and increase its numbers in the face of ongoing development. Many volunteers, non-profit groups, and agencies assisted in the effort. Results to date are promising.

LA/SMM Conservation

Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter
CNPS Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter

The Los Angeles/Santa Monica Mountains chapter has been working with partners like State Parks and TreePeople to abate invasive plants and restore wildlands. Volunteers diligently follows development proposals, and comments on them with a view to minimizing damage the natural environment. The chapter also sponsors biological surveys of local wildlands to discover uncommon taxa and make the case for mitigating damage to them.

Rare Plants of the Mojave Desert

Tim Thomas, Madena Asbell (presenting)
CNPS Mojave Chapter

There are approximately 275 CNPS listed rare plant taxa in the Mojave Desert. This poster highlights nine of them from a variety of habitats across the desert.



CNPS CHAPTER POSTER ABSTRACTS

Bringing People to Plants

Nikki Nedeff, Michael Mitchell, Brian LeNeve
CNPS Monterey Bay Chapter

The Monterey Bay Chapter has a long tradition of outreach – generating the understanding and enthusiasm which are the bedrock of any conservation efforts. Its annual wildflower show has been active since 1961 and is the largest in the Northern Hemisphere. Close to 750 taxa are regularly on display under one roof. The chapter publishes books written by dedicated volunteers and it organizes field trips near and far. Chapter members understand just how beautiful, practical, and ecologically important our native flora and natural communities are. The chapter's outreach efforts strive to communicate this understanding and share its members' love and concern for the county's extraordinary flora.

Local Advocacy Raises Public Awareness and Influences Agency Decisions

Ann Elliott
CNPS Mount Lassen Chapter

The Mount Lassen Chapter of CNPS engages with local, state, and federal agencies regarding a number of conservation-related issues. Recent activities include assisting with planning, commenting on proposals, or advocating for or against the following: Butte Regional Conservation Plan; Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course mitigation; North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve management and development; City of Chico Urban Forest management; projects in and near the Butterfly Valley Botanical Special Interest Area. The chapter has adopted and maintains the Yahli Trail and Alice Hecker Native Plant Garden at the Chico Creek Nature Center, both in Chico's Bidwell Park. Chapter outreach activities include hikes, public program meetings, native plant gardening workshops and classes, native plant garden tours, information tables at local events, and a wildflower show and plant sale (every 2 years). The chapter uses their website, Facebook, Meetup, Constant Contact, and direct mail to engage our members and interested community members regarding issues and events affecting native plants.

OC Chapter Activities: Emergent Invasive Plant Management Program, and Others

Jutta Burger, Brad Jenkins, Celia Kutcher, Ron Vanderhoff
CNPS Orange County Chapter

OCCNPS' Emergent Invasive Plant Management Program, our most active conservation and advocacy project, is featured on this poster. Several other active chapter conservation and advocacy projects will also be mentioned.

Growing Enthusiasm for Native Plants

Sacramento Valley Chapter
CNPS Sacramento Valley Chapter

For more than 50 years, the Sacramento Valley Chapter has been helping thousands appreciate and cultivate native plants. Currently, the chapter has a strong synergy between their nursery, demonstration garden, and native gardens tour. The chapter's nursery, Elderberry Farms, supplies hundreds with the thousands of native plants it cultivates each year. Together with the chapter's demonstration garden at the Old City Cemetery, the nursery also provide numerous volunteers with hands-on experience propagating and caring for native plants. In addition, the annual Gardens Gone Native tour gives more than 1,000 interested gardeners a chance to explore and glean ideas from 25–30 yards landscaped with native plants. Together, these three programs, supported by the chapter's other activities and resources, help the local community appreciate and grow native plants, and in the process enhance and restore native vegetation through horticulture.



CNPS CHAPTER POSTER ABSTRACTS

Protecting Oak Woodlands: SLO County ordinance enacted to prevent Vineyard conversion

John Chesnut, David Chipping, Holly Slettland, Bill Waycott, Neil Havlik
CNPS San Luis Obispo Chapter

The County of San Luis Obispo enacted permanent oak woodland protections in the spring of 2017 intended to limit the conversion of natural woodlands to vineyard development. The ordinance provides the most comprehensive protections to oak woodland from the spectre of agricultural conversion in California. The land use ordinance was a victory for the San Luis Obispo chapter of CNPS which played a substantial role behind the successful passage. Agricultural intensification within California's wine regions represents a conservation crisis; the county ordinance reduces pressure across this landscape.

Chapter Nursery Renovation – New Challenges and New Beginnings

Vivian Neou, Stephen Buckhout
CNPS Santa Clara Valley Chapter

The CNPS SCV chapter recently renovated their chapter nursery. The goal of the renovation project was to rebuild the 25-year old volunteer-run nursery to support current best management practices in order to protect plants and customers from pathogens. Project challenges included management of scarce volunteer resources and shifting policy direction and industry practices.

Point Vicente Native Plant Demonstration Garden

Megan Roy, David Berman
CNPS South Coast Chapter

The South Coast Chapter has maintained a demonstration garden at Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center since 1988. Garden maintenance challenges over the years included low plant coverage, poor soil conditions, and high winds with limited watering. About 3 years ago, the chapter hired a garden coordinator to improve the quality of the garden and its associated volunteer program. The interpretive center is located on the ocean side bluffs in the City of Rancho Palos Verdes. It is a popular destination for whale watching, sunset walks, and docent-led education programming. Under the direction of the garden coordinator, the garden looks beautiful and serves to educate the public on the benefits of California native plants. The volunteer day attendance has grown from a few people to over 80 volunteers on a given day. The coordinator position is funded a grant in partnership with the City. This model is an example of a successful native plant demonstration garden.