

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
California Native Plant Society  
ANNUAL REPORT 2004

Prepared by Lyn McAfee, President  
THE CHAPTER IS REQUESTING A SUBVENTION

Overview

With an experienced team providing leadership, the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS continues to maintain a strong presence in the San Gabriel Valley. Attendance at monthly program meetings averages more than 39 thanks to great speakers, advance publicity and warm and inclusive hospitality. Field trips and plant walks are enthusiastically received. Our attractive and informative web site generates interest and questions from those who visit it. The Chapter's outstanding newsletter receives many positive comments and keeps our members well informed.

Chapter Activities

**Board Meetings:** Four board meetings were held in 2004. An estimated **100 hours** were spent by officers and members to plan and attend these meetings, and for other volunteer administrative tasks.

**Program Meetings:** Eight program meetings at Eaton Canyon Nature Center were held in 2004. These meetings are considered to be both a member service and public outreach/education. The yearly fee for the meeting place was \$280. Volunteer efforts to arrange all meetings and publicity – **approximately 70 hours**.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1/22/04	<b><i>"Teeny Tiny Desert Beauties"</i></b> Ileene Anderson, CNPS Southern California Regional Botanist	38
2/25/04	<b><i>"Recent Plant Conservation Efforts on Guadalupe Island"</i></b> Steve Junak, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Herbarium Curator	35
3/25/04	<b><i>"The Missing Middle: Threats and Opportunities in Conserving the Puente-ChinoHills Wildlife Corridor"</i></b> Claire Schlotterbeck, Hills for Everyone	42
4/22/04	<b><i>"A Vascular Flora of the Owens Peak Eastern Watershed"</i></b> Naomi Fraga, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	37
5/27/04	<b><i>"Recovery From The Flames"</i></b> Terry Keller, Associate Professor, Rio Hondo College	41
6/24/04	<b><i>"Growing a Bird-Friendly Garden with California Native Plants"</i></b> Melanie Baer-Keeley, Restoration Horticulturist, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks	40

9/23/04	<b>“Native Plant Gardening 101”</b> Rick Fisher, ASLA, Landscape Architect & Conservationist	39
10/28/04	<b>“Botany on the Angeles National Forest”</b> Janet Nickerman, Forest Botanist	42

**More than 300 people attended program meetings in 2004, including CNPS members and the general public. Local college students received extra credit for attending our programs.**

**Field Trips:** Six field trips were held in 2004 with 124 participants. **Volunteer hours** estimated at **60**:

1/24/04---Ferns of Eaton Canyon, Jane Strong	23 attendees
3/07/04---Alluvial Sage Scrub Habitat, Santa Fe Dam	24
4/24/04---Wildflower Tour of San Gabriel Canyon Burn Area	25
5/01/04---Cushenbury Carbonate Flora of San Bernardino Mts	22
9/18/04---Lower Arroyo Seco in Late Summer: Fruits & Seeds	4
10/16/04---Fall Color in San Antonio Canyon, Mt. Baldy	26

**Newsletter/Membership:** *The Paintbrush*, SGM Chapter’s newsletter, was published four times in 2004: Jan/Feb, March/April, May/June and Fall (Sept-Dec). The editor, Kathy LaShure, served as membership chair from January through March, spending about ½ hour per month to check the membership base for accuracy and update the mailing list for a total of **1 1/2 hours**. Membership duties were taken over by another volunteer in April. The newsletter itself (assembling material, research, writing, layout, printing, folding, addressing, mailing) takes about 15 hours per issue for a total of about **60 hours**. Two issues were six pages and two were eight pages. The cost of printing and mailing was \$711. We print 100-200 extra copies per issue to distribute at Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden as public outreach.

**Public Outreach:** The SGM Chapter conducts monthly Native Plant Walks for the public at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena. Ten were held in 2004. The Plant Walks are in support of our chapter’s ‘home base,’ the Eaton Canyon Nature Center, and are promoted through the center and chapter publicity. Attendance varies from 6 to as many as 20. **Estimated volunteer hours – 55.**

**Education Efforts:** Our chapter considers all of our activities to be educational outreach to the community. In addition to program meetings, field trips and plant walks, the chapter occasionally participates in educational events such as environmental fairs. **Volunteer hours** for these events were approximately **20**.

**Conservation:** The chapter Conservation Chairman was active in local conservation efforts.

**Work Parties:** The chapter maintains the Becky Rothenberg Memorial Wildflower Garden at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena. A work party was held on December 12 to clean up the garden, plant native perennials and shrubs, and re-seed wildflowers. A dozen volunteers participated. During the previous months one member

valiantly tried to control the myriad mustard and alyssum seedlings. **Total volunteer hours: 58.**

**Legislative Activity:** Volunteer Jane Strong attended US Forest Service Revision Plan meeting, and wrote two responses to the plan, one as an individual and one to be incorporated in the CNPS Southern California response. She also sent letters to other local environmental groups urging people to respond. **Ten volunteer hours.**

**Chapter Web Site, cnps-sgm.org:** The chapter web site has been very successful in generating interest in CNPS; we get many inquiries from the public about native plants and our programs from people who visit the site. In addition to maintaining our website and keeping it updated, webmaster Jane Strong built and maintained two new sites this year: one about the Natural History of Santa Fe Dam, and the other for the US Forest Service programs and the San Gabriel Environmental Education Center and Mt. Baldy Visitor Center. On the chapter website, the Santa Fe Dam site is the most visited page after the three gardening pages (books about gardening, demonstration gardens, sources) and the Rare Plants page. Most people log on looking for “mountains of California” from Google and Yahoo. The webmaster creates and maintains the web site for an annual total of **20 volunteer hours**. The cost of the site is \$8.95 per month, or \$107.40 annually.

**Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows: “Under the Oaks IV: Native Plants for Foothill Gardens”** was held on December 4 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. While the date was later in the year than we had originally hoped for, the weather cooperated and we increased our sales and profit for the fourth year in a row. Volunteer hours before the actual sale date were fewer than in previous years as much planning work carried forward. The day of the event, 13 volunteers contributed 65 hours, before- and after-event planning took 25 hours, for a total of **90 volunteer hours**. Public attendance was approximately 250 people. None of the plants were grown by the chapter. We sold only plants and seeds this year (although books were available at the Nature Center bookstore). At the sale we provided a number of free plant lists that are popular: Aromatic Plants, Fall Color, Landscaping Under the Oaks, Butterfly Gardens, etc. The special offering at this year’s sale was “*What’s That Bug Doing in My Garden,*” a presentation by Lili Singer, who writes for the Home Section of the *Los Angeles Times*.

***Though our chapter is small, leadership of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS anticipates that the chapter will continue to thrive and grow. A continuing goal is to recruit more members and leaders to ensure a stable and active future for the chapter.***