

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
California Native Plant Society  
ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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THE CHAPTER IS REQUESTING A SUBVENTION

Overview

This year, the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS continues to maintain a strong presence in the San Gabriel Valley despite major changes in board membership. Several long time and experienced board members relinquished their functions but the chapter was able to recruit more new members to serve on the board, assuring its continuity.

Our chapter membership slightly declined from 169 to 153 members, even though more than 40 people usually attend our programs. We offer a variety of topics, speakers, advance publicity and warm and inclusive hospitality. Field trips, plant walks, and our annual native plant sale are enthusiastically received. Our attractive and informative web site generates interest and questions from those who visit it. The Chapter's newsletter *The Paintbrush* receives many positive comments and keeps our members well informed. The strength and focus of our chapter is outreach and education.

In addition, we would like to focus more on habitat protection in our area, particularly the San Gabriel foothills, which is threatened by aggressive development. Working with local conservancies appears to be one venue to achieve this goal. We would like to receive some ideas and guidance from the state organization and our neighboring chapters on how best to go about preserving our foothills, and its various plant communities with several rare and endangered species.

Chapter Activities

**1. Board Meetings:**

We held four board meetings in 2005. On average, eleven board/chapter members attended. Volunteer hours spent on planning, attending, and writing minutes totaled at least **144 hours**.

**2. Field Trips:**

We offered five field trips in 2005 with 131 participants. **Volunteer hours** needed to organize and lead the field trips were **75**:

		<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Vol.Hrs.</u>
4/9/05	<i>Maloo House Gardens Tour, Rick Fisher</i>	12	10
4/24/05	<i>Placerita Canyon Nature Center, Ian Swift</i>	35	13
4/30/05	<i>San Gabriel Canyon Wildflowers, Jane Strong &amp; ANF</i>	45	20
7/9/05	<i>Blooms &amp; Butterflies in Icehouse Canyon, Jane Strong</i>	30	20

10/1/05      *Native Plant Photography at RSABG, members*      9      12

### 3. Program Meetings:

We conducted eight program meetings at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in 2005. These meetings are considered to be both a member service and public outreach/education. The yearly fee for the meeting place was **\$280**.

Refreshments are served and organized by our hospitality chair, at no cost to the chapter. Our member services chair sends out e-mail reminders one week before the program and we have professional, personalized name tags with the CNPS logo available for anyone who attends the program more than once.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Vol.hrs</u>
1/27/05	<b><i>“Vascular Plants of the Whipple Mountains”</i></b> Sarah DeGroot, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	42	10
2/24/05	<b><i>“Braunton’s Milkvetch, A California Original”</i></b> Betsey Landis, CNPS, LA/Santa Monica Mountains Chapter	37	10
3/24/05	<b><i>“Theodore Payne: How He Saved and Is Still Saving the California Native Plants</i></b> Elizabeth Pomeroy, writer, CNPS, San Gabriel Mountains Chapter	39	10
4/28/05	<b><i>“Australia’s Native Orchids”</i></b> Graham Bothwell, CNPS, San Gabriel Mountains Chapter	45	120
5/26/05	<b><i>“A Sense of Place: the San Gabriel River Watershed”</i></b> Gabi McLean, CNPS, San Gabriel Mountains Chapter	29	36
6/23/05	<b><i>“Member Photos: Show and Tell”</i></b> Members of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter	26	33
9/22/05	<b><i>“Photographic Techniques”</i></b> Rick Fisher, Gabi McLean, Cliff McLean, CNPS, San Gabriel Mountains Chapter	39	36
10/27/05	<b><i>“Secret Lives of Natives”</i></b> Greg Rubin, Owner, California’s Own Native Landscape Design	64	10

More than 320 people attended program meetings in 2005, including CNPS members and the general public. Most speakers were local chapter members. Volunteer hours for program preparation and presentation, publicity, and hospitality amounted to **265 hours** or more.

### 4. Newsletter:

*The Paintbrush*, SGM Chapter’s newsletter, was published four times in 2005, and covered six to eight pages. Our long-time editor, Kathy LaShure, moved out of the area early in 2005 and we now have an editorial team; one member is serving as editor, and another is responsible for assembly and distribution. Both also contributed articles. Various other members contributed

articles as well. Volunteer hours for writing articles were estimated at 35 per issue, total of 140 hours.

The membership database serves as the distribution database and is maintained by our membership chair; maintaining this database took 16 volunteer hours in 2005.

The newsletter itself (assembling material, research, layout, printing, folding, addressing, mailing) took about 20 hours per issue on average, for a total of about 80 hours. The number of hours needed to complete the newsletter has increased since our very dedicated new volunteers are still familiarizing themselves with the publishing software and the new tasks.

We were able to reduce the cost of printing and mailing this year since for the last two issues, we were able to get free printing through our editor team. The cost this year was **\$399**. We print 160 extra copies per issue to distribute at Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden as public outreach. Total volunteer hours were **236 hours** (see above for detail)

### **5. and 6. Public Outreach and Education Efforts:**

The SGM Chapter conducts monthly Native **Plant Walks** for the public at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena. Ten were held in 2005. 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. Volunteer **hours total 40**.

Chapter members also represented CNPS at the local Native American Indian equinox celebrations with a display table and answering many questions about native plants and our programs. The same chapter members also participated in a community project in Pasadena, supporting plantings with native plants in a public park and creating signage about native plants and their habitat, for use in this historic park (Washington Park).

One member participated actively in the Aveda campagne, presenting to Aveda customers and receiving positive feedback.

Our chapter considers all of our activities to be educational outreach to the community. The above activities serve equally for outreach and educating the public. **Volunteer hours** for these events were approximately **120** (in addition to the Plant Walks).

We couple our program meetings also with education: For 30 minutes before the program, we offer informal plant identification: we have some plant cuttings available – from the field, the park, or native plant gardens - and members bring in plants or photographs and they are discussed and identified by knowledgeable members. We identify native and non-native, invasive plants, and occasionally uncommon plants. This part of our program is very much appreciated by people who are new to native plants. The volunteer hours are included in the reported hours for programs.

### **7. Conservation:**

The chapter Conservation Chairman was active in local conservation efforts, in particular working with conservancies in the San Gabriel foothills surveying habitats and identifying rare species. The focus this year was on the Glendora foothills. The project was close to completion at the end of the year.

Another member contributed photographs of native plants to two grant proposals to acquire land for new conservancies, working with L.A. county to preserve open space. The positive outcome of these efforts did not yet become obvious in 2005. **Estimated volunteer hours: 50.**

#### **8. Work Parties:**

The chapter maintains the Becky Rothenberg Memorial Wildflower Garden at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena and supports the native gardening club at the Nature Center. A work party was held on March 13, 2005 to weed and maintain the native perennials and shrubs and continue the work that started in December 2004. A half dozen volunteers participated. Throughout the year, a few members continued weeding the Wildflower garden to control the mustard, alyssum, and grass seedlings. **Total volunteer hours: 40.**

#### **9. Legislative Activity:**

None this year.

#### **10. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows:**

***“Under the Oaks V: Plant and Wildflower Seed Sale”*** was held on November 19 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We significantly increased the number of plants and species available, had plenty of volunteers available, and offered a presentation **Wildscaping your Garden** by Chris and Trish Meyers. The weather cooperated and we increased our outreach, sales, and profit for the fifth year in a row.

Volunteer hours by the organizer Carmen Wolf were about 120. A significant part of those hours were to prepare free informational material and plant labels for the event. On the day of the event, 25 volunteers contributed 125 hours, for expert advice, assisting sales, carrying plants, parking and crowd control, overall organization. Plant selection and delivery, publicity, and other preparation by other members took another 40 hours, for a total of **285 volunteer hours.**

Public attendance was approximately 300 people, and 64 attended the special program. None of the plants were grown by the chapter. We only sold plants, seeds, and posters this year and provided free informational material. Books were available at the Nature Center bookstore. We continue to receive positive feedback about the plant sale, as this is seen a convenience to acquire plants and receive free expert information.

#### **11. Other Activities:**

**Chapter Web Site, [cnps-sgm.org](http://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. 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. The webmaster maintains the web site for an annual total of **12 volunteer hours.** The cost of the site is \$8.95 per month, or \$107.40 annually.

*Though our chapter is small, leadership of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS anticipates that the chapter will continue to thrive. A continuing goal is to recruit more members and expand the leader circle to ensure a stable and active future for our chapter and our native plants in their natural habitat.*