

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
California Native Plant Society
ANNUAL REPORT 2006

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THE CHAPTER IS REQUESTING A SUBVENTION

Overview

This year, the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS expanded its presence in the San Gabriel Valley. We had some turnover in board membership but we were able to recruit new members to serve on the board, assuring its continuity.

Our chapter membership increased from 153 members to 195, an exceptional 27 percent growth. On the average, about 45 people usually attend our program meetings. We offer a variety of topics, speakers, advance publicity, informal plant ID, and inclusive hospitality. Field trips, plant walks, and our annual native plant sale are enthusiastically received. Our 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 this year, we also tried to focus on habitat protection in the San Gabriel foothills, which is threatened by aggressive development. While our goal is to work with local conservancies and conservation groups, building a network and connections appears to be a slow process. We connected with other southern California CNPS chapters to explore the possibilities for one or more biologists to work on conservation issues in our area, and our chapter set aside funds in support of this goal.

Chapter Activities

1. Board Meetings:

We held four board meetings in 2006. On average, eight board members attended. Volunteer hours spent on planning, attending, and writing minutes totaled at least **112 hours**.

2. Field Trips:

We offered four field trips in 2006, plus the chapter council field trip in March. On the five outings, we had 91 participants. **Volunteer hours** needed to organize and lead the field trips were **50**:

		<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Vol.Hrs.</u>
4/1/06	<i>San Dimas Experimental Forest, Mike Oxford rained out, successfully rescheduled 5/13/06</i>	15	10
4/22/06	<i>Bonelli Park Restoration Area, Mickey Long joint outing with Sierra Club, Natural Science Section</i>	25	13
6/10/06	<i>Fish Canyon, Gabi & Cliff McLean</i>	35	20

7/22/06	Mount Baldy, Mickey Long	6	10
3/5/06	Chapter Council field trip, San Antonio Cyn, Jane Strong	15	12

3. Program Meetings:

We conducted eight program meetings at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in 2006. 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>
1/26/06	"Salvias" Bart O'Brien, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	61	10
2/23/06	"Native Orchids of California" Robert Lauri, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	49	10
3/23/06	"Everything you ever wanted to know about native plant gardening" Mike Evans, Tree of Life nursery	47	10
4/27/06	"Wildflowers of Santa Clarita" Ian Swift, Placerita Canyon Nature Center	39	10
5/25/06	"Ecology of California Grasses" Paula Schiffman, Cal State Northridge	58	10
6/22/06	"Arroyo Seco Restoration" Jeff Chapman, Arroyo Seco Foundation	39	10
9/28/06	"Secrets of the Chaparral" Rick Halsey, California Chaparral Field Institute	64	20
10/26/06	"Aasulingna, the Place of Plants" Mike Brown, Cal Poly Pomona	36	10

In total, we had 393 attendees at our program meetings in 2006, including CNPS members and the general public. Volunteer hours for program preparation and presentation, publicity, and hospitality amounted to **90 hours** or more. We paid **\$350** in speaker honoraria.

4. Newsletter:

The Paintbrush, SGM Chapter's newsletter, was published four times in 2006, and covered six to eight pages. We have an editorial team; one member is serving as editor, and another is responsible for assembly and distribution, and a third is assisting in layout. Various members

contribute articles. 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 14 volunteer hours in 2006.

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 cost of printing and mailing continues to be very low since we continue to get free printing through our editor team. The cost this year was **\$311**. 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 2006. 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 member represented CNPS in a community project in Pasadena, supporting plantings with native plants in a public park and finalizing signage about native plants and their habitat, for use in historic Washington Park in Pasadena. Signage includes CNPS contact information.

Other outreach events with our chapter representation were

- the Earth Day event at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on April 15;
- the L.A. Garden Show at the L. A. County Arboretum on May 6 and 7;
- the L.A. County Bug Fair at the Natural History Museum of L.A. County on May 20 and 21;
- the Pasadena Environmentalists Rendezvous at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on September 10;
- the Washington Park Re-opening in Pasadena on September 30; and
- the RSABG native plant sale in Claremont on November 4, 2006.

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). Cost for brochures, handouts, and table reservation: \$158.

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:

This chapter, together with other southern California chapters, explored the possibility of committing and obtaining funds in order to secure the services of one or more botanists to represent CNPS interests in public policy and developments in southern California. Our chapter

set aside \$3000 (\$1000 for 3 years each) and is participating in the joint efforts to secure matching grants to fund such positions/contracts.

Estimated volunteer hours: 15.

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. Throughout the year, members continue weeding the Wildflower garden to control the mustard, alyssum, and grass seedlings. More active participation would be appreciated. **Total volunteer hours: 12.**

9. Legislative Activity:

None this year.

10. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows:

“Under the Oaks VI: Plant and Wildflower Seed Sale” was held on December 2 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We again increased the number of plants and species available, had plenty of volunteers available, and offered a presentation **California Native Plants for Wildlife** by Ken Gilliland. The weather cooperated and we increased our outreach, sales, and profit for the sixth year in a row. We offered membership incentives by giving discounts for the plants and the Care and Maintenance books that were received through CNPS participation (Betsy Landis and Bart O’Brien) with the Metropolitan Water District.

Volunteer hours by the 5-person organizing team lead by Carol Carriere were about 60. On the day of the event, 29 volunteers contributed 186 hours, for expert advice, assisting sales, carrying plants, and overall organization. Plant selection and delivery, publicity, and other preparation by other members took another 40 hours, for a total of **286 volunteer hours.**

Public attendance was approximately 350 people, and 30 attended the special program. None of the plants were grown by the chapter. We sold plants, seeds, posters, and the Care and Maintenance for California Native Plants books. **We coupled the plant sale with a membership drive and recruited 30 new members on that one day.** 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:

Rare Plants: Our Rare Plant chair advised the State CNPS botanist on several rare plant listing decisions, including the decision to declare extinct *Ribes divaricatum* var. *parishii*. A small member team also entered into discussions with the US Forest Service on plant surveys inside the San Dimas Experimental Forest.

Chapter Council Meetings: Our president and chapter council representative and membership chair representative attended two chapter council meetings (March and December) and the chapter co-hosted the March meeting at RSABG. **Volunteer hours: 86**

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. 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 **14 volunteer hours**. The cost of the site is \$8.95 per month, or \$107.40 annually.

Fund Raising Activities: In order to raise awareness and funds for the southern California botanist(s) services, the chapter decided to produce a chapter tee-shirt. **Volunteer hours** for design and business activities amounted to **40**.

Volunteer hours for financial reports and accounting: 20

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.