

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER California Native Plant Society ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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Overview

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

Our chapter membership increased from 195 members to 216, another 10% expansion after last year's exceptional 27 percent growth. On average, 40 people attend our monthly program meetings. We offer a variety of topics, speakers, advance publicity, informal plant ID, and hospitality. Field trips, plant walks, and our annual native plant sale are well attended. Our web site was overhauled this year. It continues to be updated and expanded, generating interest and inquiries. 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 and proliferation of invasive plants in our wildlands. While our goal is to work with local conservancies and conservation groups, building a network and connections appears to be a slow process. Our chapter continues to reserve funds in support of a biologist to work on conservation issues in Southern California, together with our neighboring chapters, but no real progress occurred in that area. Instead, we are in the planning stage of a major project of invasive control in the Arroyo Seco, a major canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains and part of the Angeles National Forest.

Chapter Activities

1. Board Meetings:

We held five board meetings in 2007. On average, seven board members attended. Volunteer hours spent on planning, attending, and writing minutes totaled at least **122 hours**.

2. Field Trips:

We offered two field trips in 2007, plus the chapter council field trip in March. On the three outings, we had 42 participants total. **Volunteer hours** needed to organize and lead the field trips were **21**:

		<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Vol.Hrs.</u>
4/15/07	<i>Sturtevant Falls</i> , Tom Hood	10	7
4/18/07	<i>Santa Fe Dam County Park</i> , Mickey Long joint outing with Eaton Canyon docents	20	7
3/04/07	<i>Chapter Council field trip, San Gabriel Cyn</i> , with Cliff and Gabi McLean	12	7

In addition, we partnered with the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club who offered several Plant ID/Botany walks in our area, as well as a weekend Nature Knowledge Workshop. These outings were led or assisted by CNPS chapter members Bob Muns and Cliff and Gabi McLean. Volunteer hours for these outings amounted to approximately **40 hours**.

The SGM chapter conducts monthly **Native Plant Walks** for the public at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena. Ten were held in 2007. The Plant Walks are supported by 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**.

In October of this year, we started a new series of monthly outings in the San Gabriel Mountains, at the Chilao visitor center, elevation 6341 feet, led by Angeles National Forest volunteer and CNPS member Jane Strong. **Volunteer hours: 14**

Total volunteer hours for field trips, outings, and plant walks: 115

3. Program Meetings:

We conducted eight program meetings at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in 2007. 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. Our membership 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>
1/25/07	"Ceanothus" Barbara Eisenstein, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden	39	20
2/22/07	"Chumash Healing" , James D. Adams and Cecilia Garcia	54	15
3/22/07	"The Ballona Wetlands Marsh Restoration" Lisa Fimiani and Dr. Edith Reed	37	15
4/15/07	"Rare Plants of Palomar" , Robert Laurey	34	15
5/24/07	"Plant Communities of the San Bernardino Mountains" , Scott Eliason	49	15
6/28/07	"Early Natural History Clubs of Southern California prior to the 1950s" , Gary Wallace	32	20
9/27/07	"Tejon-Tehachapi Park: A Vision for California's Newest Park" , Ilene Anderson	36	15
10/25/07	"Plants for a Marathon Lawn" , Rick Fisher	39	20

In total, we had 320 attendees at our program meetings in 2007, including CNPS members and the general public. Volunteer hours for program preparation and presentation, publicity, and hospitality amounted to **135 hours** or more. We paid **\$300** in speaker honoraria.

4. Newsletter:

The Paintbrush, SGM Chapter's newsletter, was published four times in 2007, and each covered six to eight pages. This year, our newsletter team changed from three to only two members: one member is serving as editor and layout person, the other is responsible for assembly and distribution. The production of the newsletter - assembling material, research, layout, editing, proof reading, printing, folding, addressing, mailing - took about 40 hours per issue on average, for a total of **160 hours**.

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 2007.

The cost of printing and mailing was **\$620**. We print 160 extra copies per issue to distribute at Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) as public outreach. Total volunteer hours were **314 hours**

5. and 6. Public Outreach and Education Efforts:

The SGM chapter conducts monthly **Native Plant Walks** for the public at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena (included in field trips above).

The chapter also provided outreach at the following events:

- Earth Day event at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, April 14;
- L. A. County Bug Fair at the Natural History Museum of L.A. County, May 19 and 20;
- Monrovia Biodiversity Fair, August 26;
- Pasadena Environmentalists Rendezvous at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, September 8;
- "Native Nights", a workshop on using drought resistant and native plants, Whittier, November 27; and
- RSABG native plant sale in Claremont, November 3 and 4, 2007.

Chapter members staffed a table, brought display material, handed out informational and membership brochures, offered sign ups for programs, and answered questions from the public.

Chapter members presented a Native Gardening program at the LA/SMM chapter plant sale on October 7, 2007.

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 **96** (does not include Plant Walks). Cost for brochures and handouts are difficult to isolate since we used whatever was left from our plant sale.

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:

Our chapter has joined a coalition of environmental organizations in supporting the campaign for conservation of Tejon Ranch and the establishment of **Tejon-Tehachapi State Park**. (2 hrs)

Our chapter has joined the stakeholders for a **San Gabriel River Discovery Center**. The project is planning to build a large building and native re-vegetation of the surrounding area along the San Gabriel River. Our representative attended four board meetings and one stakeholder meeting. In addition, chapter members attended two informational meetings, advocating the use of a smaller impact design for the building and parking lot, and extending the natural area with native plants. (25 hrs)

At the end of the year, the chapter board decided to start an **invasive weed eradication** effort in the Arroyo Seco canyon, also known as the upper Arroyo Seco, in the Angeles National Forest. In December, the core team conducted a planning meeting and a scouting trip, and requested permission from the Forest Service to conduct weeding parties, without use of herbicide. We expect this to be a long-range project. (30 hrs)

The chapter continues to hold in reserve \$3000 for a botanist position to work on conservation issues in southern California, together with other southern California chapters.

Estimated volunteer hours: 57.

San Dimas Experimental Forest (SDEF) Plant Survey:

The chapter entered into an agreement with SDEF, a unit of the Angeles National Forest, to obtain access to and conduct field surveys on the premises of SDEF. For the field surveys, one of the four registered CNPS representatives (Terry Keller, Mickey Long, Rick Fisher, Cliff McLean) must be present. The chapter committed to delivering a written report on the survey results. Only one access key was made available. Several field visits were conducted and documented. Further study of observed species will be necessary. There have been 12 visits between February and June. This is an ongoing project. **Total volunteer hours for 2007: 75**

Total estimated volunteer hours for conservation: 132

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. A planting workshop following the plant sale also incorporated weeding activities. **Total volunteer hours: 15.**

9. Legislative Activity:

None this year.

10. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows:

“Under the Oaks VII: Plant and Wildflower Seed Sale” was held on November 10 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We again increased the number of plants and species available, had plenty of volunteers available, and offered a presentation the **Plant Community Approach to Designing California Native Gardens** by Alrie Middlebrook. As in the year before, we coupled the plant sale with a very successful **membership drive**. The weather was excellent and we increased our outreach and sales for the seventh year in a row. We offered membership incentives by giving a 10% discount to all CNPS members for all purchases: the plants, the Care and Maintenance books, chapter T-shirts, and Common Plants of Eaton Canyon CDs.

Our plant sale organizer unexpectedly moved out of state, six weeks before the event. Our team was able to follow through with the event without difficulties. On the day of the event, 33 volunteers contributed **200 hours**, for expert advice, assisting sales, carrying plants, and overall organization. Planning, plant selection and delivery, publicity, and other preparations by chapter members took approximately another 100 hours, for a total of **300 volunteer hours**.

Public attendance was approximately 300 people, and 30 attended the special program. All plants sold were purchased from local native plant nurseries. **We coupled the plant sale with a membership drive and recruited 18 new members on that one day.** We continue to receive positive feedback about the plant sale, as this is seen as a convenience to acquire plants locally 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, attended the Rare Plant chair meeting, provided information to the public, and maintained the rare plant list for Los Angeles County. **Volunteer hours: 12**

Chapter Council Meetings: Our president (chapter council representative) and the membership chair attended four chapter council meetings. The chapter co-hosted the March meeting at RSABG. **Volunteer hours: 186**

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. The webmaster has been working on a major overhaul of the web site. All chapter newsletters, since the inception of the chapter, are now available on line. **Total volunteer hours 45.** The cost of the site is \$8.95 per month, or **\$107.40** annually.

Volunteer hours for financial reports and accounting: 42

Volunteer hours for other activities, e.g. responding to e-mails from the public: 12

Summary of Volunteer Hours:

1) Board meetings:	122	7) Conservation:	132
2) Field trips:	115	8) Work parties:	15
3) Program meetings:	135	9) Legislative :	none
4) Newsletter:	314	10) Plant sale:	300
5 & 6) Public Outreach & Education:	96	11) Other:	297

Total volunteer hours: 1526