

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER California Native Plant Society ANNUAL REPORT 2008

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THE CHAPTER IS REQUESTING A SUBVENTION

Overview

The San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of CNPS continued to affirm its presence in the San Gabriel Valley. Our board membership stabilized this year and our chapter membership increased from 216 members to 236, another 9% growth, comparable to last year's 10 percent growth.

Our outreach and education program consists of (1) monthly program meetings, (2) field trips and plant walks, (3) our annual native plant sale, (4) maintenance of our web site, and (5) representation at local public events, generating interest and inquiries. The Chapter's newsletter *The Paintbrush* is mailed to our members and posted on our website.

Our conservation efforts continue in the form of our weed control project in the Arroyo Seco, a major canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains and part of the Angeles National Forest. We also see the need of a full time biologist who could represent our conservation interests in the area and our chapter continues to reserve funds in support of a paid position to work of those issues together with our neighboring chapters, however we have not raised enough funds.

We continue plant surveys in the San Dimas Experimental Forest, a restricted access area in the Angeles National Forest.

Chapter Activities

1. Board Meetings:

We held five board meetings in 2008. 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 six field trips in 2008, plus the chapter council field trip in March. Six of the outings were organized in collaboration with the Angeles National Forest and lead by CNPS member and ANF volunteer Jane Strong, with an average attendance of seven plant enthusiasts. The field trip to the Antelope Valley lead by Mickey Long attracted 14 participants. Total **Volunteer hours** needed to organize and lead the field trips were **48**.

		<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Vol.Hrs.</u>
3/9/08	Joatngna Trail – Chapter Council	8	6
4/5/08	Mountain Plant Walk	10	7
5/3/08	Mountain Plant Walk	12	7
6/7/08	Mountain Plant Walk	6	7
7/5/08	Mountain Plant Walk	6	7
8/2/08	Mountain Plant Walk	6	7
4/6/08	Antelope Valley Wildflowers and Ecology	14	7

The SGM chapter conducts monthly **Native Plant Walks** for the public at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena. Ten were held in 2008. 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 16. Volunteer **hours total 40**.

In addition, we partnered with the Natural Science Section of the Sierra Club who offered several botany walks in our area, in March, April, and September, as well as a weekend Nature Knowledge Workshop in June. These outings were led or assisted by CNPS chapter members Cliff and Gabi McLean, Mickey Long, and Ginny Heringer. Average attendance at the botany walks was 12 per outing. Volunteer hours for these outings amounted to approximately **40 hours**.

Total volunteer hours for field trips, outings, and plant walks: 128

3. Program Meetings:

We conducted eight program meetings at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in 2008. We consider those programs not only a resource for our members, but also public outreach and 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. We also have printed, 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>
1/24/08	<i>“Understanding Invasive Species: What Are the Basics and Why I Should Care”</i> Janet Nickerman, ANF Botanist	35	12
2/28/08	<i>“Lester Rowntree, A Pioneer Female Horticulturist”</i> Rosemary Foster	40	12
3/27/08	<i>“Arid Land Restoration: Purpose and Need”</i> Richard Montijo	38	12
4/24/08	<i>“Historical Wetlands of the San Gabriel River”</i> , Shawna Dark	63	12
5/22/08	<i>“Caring for Oaks”</i> , Rebecca Latta	40	12
6/26/08	<i>“Plant ID Workshop”</i> , Gabi McLean and CNPS team	49	52
9/25/08	<i>“Living with Chaparral: A State of Change in a Changing State”</i> , Ron Quinn	36	12
10/23/08	<i>“Gardening with Native Bulbs”</i> , Lili Singer	35	12

In total, we had 339 attendees at our program meetings in 2008, including CNPS members and the general public, an average of 42 per program. Volunteer hours for program preparation and presentation, publicity, and hospitality amounted to **136 hours** or more. We paid **\$375** in speaker honoraria.

4. Newsletter:

The Paintbrush, SGM Chapter's newsletter, was published four times in 2008, and each covered six to eight pages. We have a two-person newsletter team: 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 2008.

The cost of printing and mailing was **\$1,498**. 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 12;
- L. A. County Bug Fair at the Natural History Museum of L.A. County, May 17 and 18;
- Monrovia Biodiversity Fair, August 23;
- Pasadena Environmentalists Rendezvous at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, September 13;
- RSABG native plant sales in Claremont, November 1 and 2, 2008.

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 Native Gardening programs at the LA/SMM chapter plant sale on October 11 and 12, 2008.

Volunteer hours for these events were approximately **48**.

Our chapter considers these and all of our activities to be educational outreach to the community. Cost for brochures and handouts are difficult to identify since we use whatever is left from our plant sale, and material from the state office (membership brochures, gardening with natives). The display table at the Natural History Museum cost **\$20**.

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. In addition, one of our regular monthly programs was a plant ID workshop representing six plant families. This workshop was well attended with 49 participants.

7. Conservation:

Our chapter joined the stakeholders for a **San Gabriel River Discovery Center** in the previous year, and continued its involvement in this project, which is the construction of a large building and native re-vegetation of the surrounding area along the San Gabriel River. Our representative(s) attended six board meetings and three Stakeholders Advisory Board meetings. We are advocating the use of a smaller impact design for the building and parking lot, and extending the natural area with native plants. Volunteer hours: **36**. The EIR is still outstanding and is now expected at the beginning of the year 2009.

The chapter board continued to pursue permission from the Angeles National Forest to start an **invasive weed eradication** effort in the **upper Arroyo Seco** canyon. We submitted a written request and a plan; as of the end of the year, we had not received a formal response from the ANF. Our project leader also contacted other organizations that might get involved, (City of Pasadena, Arroyo Seco Foundation, etc). We organized two **educational field trips** in the area (together with the Sierra Club), and one **mapping trip** that documented the four major invasive species: English Ivy, Cape Ivy, Eupatory, and Periwinkle. The volunteer hours for only the plan were more than 35 hours, and the 9-mile long mapping trip with six volunteers came to 60 hours total. Other coordinating hours and contacts bring the total volunteer hours for this project easily to **over 100**.

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.

San Dimas Experimental Forest (SDEF) Plant Survey:

The chapter renewed its 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. Only one access key was made available. Several field visits were conducted and documented and Terry Keller delivered a written report on the survey results to SDEF. Further study of observed species will be necessary. There were 12 survey visits during the year. This is an ongoing project. **Total volunteer hours for 2008: 92.**

Total estimated volunteer hours for conservation: 228

8. Work Parties:

The chapter maintains the Becky Rothenberg Memorial Wildflower Garden at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena. Throughout the year, members continue weeding the Wildflower garden to control the mustard, alyssum, and grass seedlings. More active participation would be appreciated. (8 hrs)

Following our plant sale in November, we conducted a planting workshop where participants learn and gain experience planting native plants. We had 20 participants and were able to put 14 plants in the Becky Rothenberg Memorial Garden. (8 hrs)

Chapter members took part in weed eradication efforts in Monrovia Canyon together with HabitatWorks.org (14 hrs)

Total volunteer hours: 30.

9. Legislative Activity:

None this year.

10. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows:

“Under the Oaks 2008: Plant and Wildflower Seed Sale” was held on November 15 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We sold slightly fewer plants than in the previous year, but still sold over 1000 plants and had good fundraising success, with net \$2,640. We had plenty of volunteers, and offered four different presentations about gardening with natives in the auditorium.

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 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, seeds, Care and Maintenance books, chapter T-shirts, and two interpretive plant CDs of the San Gabriel Mountains, produced by chapter members. We **recruited 18 new members at the plant sale**.

On the day of the event, 30 volunteers contributed expert advice, assisted sales, carried plants, conducted the membership drive, manned the cash register, and handled overall organization. Planning, plant selection and delivery, publicity, and other preparations also took considerable time by the plant sale team, for a total of more than **300 volunteer hours**.

Public attendance was about 250 people, 45 attended the special programs, and 159 people bought plants. All plants were purchased from local native plant nurseries. We continue to receive positive feedback about the plant sale, as this is seen as a convenience to acquire native plants locally and receive free expert information. We also advertised our free planting workshop that we conducted on the following weekend (see above under work party).

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 chapter co-hosted the chapter council meeting in March at RSABG, providing refreshments and volunteers, as well as a field trip. Our chapter council designee attended the December chapter council meeting in Berkeley. Due to scheduling and distance challenges, we were not able to attend the other two meeting. **Volunteer hours: 100**

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. All chapter newsletters, since the inception of the chapter, are available on line. **Total volunteer hours 32.**

Volunteer hours for financial reports and accounting: 34

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:	228
2)	Field trips:	128	8)	Work parties:	30
3)	Program meetings:	136	9)	Legislative:	none
4)	Newsletter:	314	10)	Plant sale:	300
5 & 6)	Public Outreach & Education:	48	11)	Other:	190

Total volunteer hours: 1496