

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER
California Native Plant Society
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Prepared by Gabi McLean, President

THE CHAPTER IS REQUESTING A SUBVENTION

Overview

The San Gabriel Mountains Chapter increased its membership from 236 members to 255, another eight percent growth in membership, after having grown 9 and 10 percent in the previous two years.

Our outreach and education program consists of monthly program meetings, several field trips and monthly plant walks, our annual native plant sale, maintenance of our web site, and 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 weed control project in the Arroyo Seco, a major canyon in the San Gabriel Mountains and part of the Angeles National Forest, continue, but with difficulties due to barriers within the ANF. We also see the need of a full time biologist who could represent our conservation interests in the area. 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, and participated in the Oak Woodland Strategic Alliance.

Chapter Activities

1. Board Meetings:

We held five board meetings in 2009. On average, seven board members attended. Volunteer hours spent on planning, attending, and writing minutes totaled at least **122 hours**.

2. Field Trips:

We had a total of seven field trips with 186 participants, and **140** volunteer hours for leading, preparation, and scouting.

March 28: Santa Fe Dam, 35 participants, leaders Mickey Long and Jane Strong
May 2: Mill Creek and Mt. Gleason, 23 participants, leader Jane Strong
June 6: Lightning Ridge, 27 participants, leader Jane Strong
July 11: Buckhorn and Cortelyou Spring, 24 participants, leader Jane Strong
August 1: Snowmelt Gullies, 28 participants, leader Jane Strong
(Sept. 5: Table Mt., cancelled due to fire, road and forest closure)
Sept. 19: Bolsa Chica, 24 participants, combined with OC CNPS, Trude Hurd leader
Oct. 24: Lower Arroyo Seco, 25 participants, leaders Cynthia Guthrie and Jane Strong

We scheduled eight field trips in 2009, (one was cancelled) plus the chapter council field trip in March. In addition, we offered a "Behind the Scenes" field trip at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens in Claremont, on August 27, 2009. There were 25 participants.

In addition to the field trips listed above, we conducted monthly **Native Plant Walks** for the public at Eaton Canyon in Pasadena. 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, 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 15 per outing. Volunteer hours for these outings amounted to approximately **40 hours**.

Total volunteer hours for field trips, outings, and plant walks: 220

3. Program Meetings:

We conducted eight program meetings at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in 2009. 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>	
1/22/2009	Sula Vanderplank	Plant tales from San Martín Island and the Bay of San Quintín
2/26/2009	Steve Hartman	California Sonoran and Mojave Desert Plants, Amazing Beauty in a Harsh Environment
3/26/2009	Gabi McLean, et al	Plant Identification Workshop
4/23/2009	Mark Acuña	Tongva Maintenance of the Land
5/28/2009	Stephen Ingram	Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada
6/25/2009	Rosi Dagit	History of Oak Woodlands in Los Angeles County
9/24/2009	Rebecca Latta	Oaks of Los Angeles County, Identification and Associated Species
10/22/2009	Lili Singer	Native Trees for Urban Gardens

In total, we had 360 attendees at our program meetings in 2009, including CNPS members and the general public, an average of 45 per program. Volunteer hours for program preparation and presentation, publicity, and hospitality amounted to **136 hours** or more. We paid **\$700** in speaker honoraria.

4. Newsletter:

The Paintbrush, SGM Chapter's newsletter, was published five times in 2009, 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 **200 hours**.

Various members contribute articles. Volunteer hours for writing articles were estimated at 35 per issue, total of **175 hours**.

The membership database serves as the distribution database and is maintained by our membership chair; maintaining this database took **12 volunteer hours** in 2009.

The cost of printing and mailing was **\$2,236**. We print 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 **400 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 RSABG native plant sales in Claremont, in April and November 2009. 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.

Volunteer hours for these events were approximately **16**.

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 five plant families. This was the second such workshop (with another five plant families) and it was again well attended with more than 50 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 four board meetings and one Stakeholders Advisory Board meetings, as well as two public comment meetings, and one CNPS DEIR preparatory comment meeting. We are advocating the use of a smaller impact design for the building and parking lot, and extending the natural area with native plants. The chapter also submitted written comments to the draft. Volunteer hours: **50**.

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 four survey visits during the year: January 9, March 27, April 18, and November 13. This is an ongoing project. **Total volunteer hours for 2009: 20.**

Oak Woodland Strategic Alliance:

A delegate of our chapter, Orchid Black, attended the meeting of the Oak Woodland Strategic Alliance which is creating the Oak Conservation Plan for LA County. There were six meetings and a 1-day workshop. Together with related research and activism, the volunteer hours for this project amounted to about **90 hours**.

The Arroyo Seco Project is covered under work parties.

Total estimated volunteer hours for conservation:

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. (10 hrs)

Following our plant sale in November, we conducted a planting workshop where participants learn and gain experience planting and maintaining native plants. We had 30 participants and were able to put 8 plants in the Becky Rothenberg Memorial Garden, and do some maintenance work. (4 hrs)

The chapter conducted two **invasive weed eradication** work parties in the **upper Arroyo Seco** canyon the Angeles National Forest, with ANF tools and supervision, removing English Ivy from tree trunks. Our project leader also contacted other organizations that might get involved, (City of Pasadena, Arroyo Seco Foundation, etc). (100+)

Total volunteer hours: 120

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9. Legislative Activity:

See Oak Woodland Strategic Alliance under Conservation.

10. Plant Sales/Wildflower Shows:

“Under the Oaks 2009: Plant and Wildflower Seed Sale” was held on November 14 at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We ordered fewer plants than in the previous year, but still sold over 1000 plants and had good fundraising success, with a net income of about \$3,000. We had

plenty of volunteers, and, 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 eighth 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, 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 representative attended three chapter council meetings. Due to scheduling and distance challenges, we were not able to attend the other meeting. **Volunteer hours: 95**

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 40.**

Volunteer hours for financial reports and accounting: 34
Volunteer hours for other activities, e.g. responding to inquiries the public: 30
Volunteer hours for maintenance of membership database: 40

Summary of Volunteer Hours:

1) Board meetings:	122	7) Conservation:	160
2) Field trips:	220	8) Work parties:	120
3) Program meetings:	136	9) Legislative:	see cons.
4) Newsletter:	400	10) Plant sale:	300
5 & 6) Public Outreach & Education:	16	11) Other:	281

Total volunteer hours: 1755