



# SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

## CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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### MAY AND JUNE 1992 NEWSLETTER

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#### PROGRAMS:

*Programs are presented at the general meeting at 7:30 on the third Thursday of the month at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Dr. Phone (818) 398-5420. There are no programs in July or August.*

#### THURSDAY, MAY 21:

**Milt McCauley Walks Us Through the Santa Monica Mountains**

No-one knows the Santa Monica Mountains better than Milt McCauley, who is author of "Wildflowers of the Santa Monica Mountains," a long-time member of the board of the Theodore Payne Foundation, of the Nature/Nursery group, which introduces children to nature, and a member of the Santa Monica Trail Council, a "multi-use group" dedicated to improving access to the Santa Monicas. On May 21st Milt plans to lure us deep into the Santa Monicas with his enthusiastic presentation.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 18:

**Native California Herbs**

Chuck Entz is president of the San Fernando Valley Herb Society (and a member since age 13), and chair of the Canoga Park Herb Garden. Mr. Entz has a degree in linguistics, but is better known in native plant circles as an authority on plants of the Bible, edible weeds, and, especially, Native American uses of local native herbs, which will be his topic on June 18.

#### FIELD TRIPS:

#### SUNDAY, MAY 10, 8AM-2PM:

**Orchard Camp**

This hike takes us up into shady canyons, which should be rich in woodland annuals this time of year: calochortus, delphinium, lithofragmus, ferns. Meet at the trailhead in Sierra Madre at the corner of Miramonte and Mountain Trail. Leader: Rick Fisher, 818/798-7270.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 24, 9AM:

**Devil's Punchbowl**

The Devil's Chair Trail begins in exposed terrain but soon ascends to the shadier foothills, where we hope to see Fremontia and other plants of the high desert. Meet at the parking lot of the Devil's Punchbowl County Park (138 E. from Palmdale to Pearblossom; S. on Longview Rd, which becomes Devil's Punchbowl Rd.) Details Rick Fisher, 818/798-7270.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 9AM:

**Charleton Flats for Father's Day**

Charleton Flats is a favorite destination for the CNPS in all seasons. In June we can expect to see calochortus, delphinium and other annuals, as well as lots of birds - and fathers! Meet at the Day Use Parking Lot (Angeles Crest past Mt. Wilson to Charleton Flat turn-off; bear right into canyon to end.) Details: Rick Fisher, 818/798-7270.

**A PLEA TO OUR READERS:  
CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS  
ARE CHANGING JOBS,  
TAKING ON NEW  
RESPONSIBILITIES, OR,  
SIMPLY, BURNING OUT. WE  
COULD USE SOME HELP! IF  
YOU ENJOY THE ACTIVITIES  
OF YOUR LOCAL CNPS  
CHAPTER, PLEASE, PLEASE,  
VOLUNTEER A LITTLE OF  
YOUR TIME TO HELP PLAN  
FIELD TRIPS AND PROGRAMS.  
WRITE THE OCCASIONAL  
ARTICLE, ETC. BOTANICAL  
EXPERTISE IS NOT A  
PREREQUISITE! COME TO THE  
NEXT BOARD MEETING OR  
CALL MELANIE BARR-KEELEY  
AT 818/249-1749.**

### **OPPOSITION EXPRESSED TO VENTURA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT**

The proposed Ahmanson Ranch development in Agoura Hills threatens 400 acres of prime native grassland, according to chapter president Melanie Baer Keeley. Melanie has contacted the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to express concern over the development, and to document the botanical value of the area. Her letter reads, in part: "...the value of the Ahmanson Ranch unique Purple needle-grass (*Stipa pulchra*) grassland has been clearly quantified by botanical specialists. Also California Department of Fish and Game has determined that stands of Purple needlegrass are the rarest of the state's plant communities and are on the verge of extinction. This particular Agoura Hills site has been found to be one of best examples of native grasslands in California. Yet the Ahmanson Development Company... is intending to proceed with their objective to install this golf course."

Efforts to preserve this endangered habitat are critical, and opponents must battle two giant

Southern California institutions: Home Savings Corp. and Bob Hope. Melanie encourages us to write to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors expressing our opposition to the Ahmanson Ranch development. Letters should be individually addressed to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Susan Lacey, Supervisor John Flynn, Supervisor Maggi Erickson-Kildee, Supervisor Maria Vanderkolk, and Supervisor Vicky Howard, South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009.

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### **PRADO BASIN OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR VOLUNTEER RESTORATION EFFORTS**

Those who saw Daryl Peterson's presentation on the Nature Conservancy's Prado Basin project know about this crucial riparian habitat, one of the few relatively intact in Southern California and only an hour away from downtown LA. The Nature Conservancy's Restoration Report says the Prado Basin "lies along the Santa Ana River at the confluence of Chino Creek, Mill Creek, Cucamonga Creek, and Temescal Wash ...[and provides] homes to numerous rare native species. At least 25 percent of the remainin least Bell's vireo... as well as western yellow-billed cuckoo, southwestern willow flycatcher... are found here."

The restoration project will both re-establish a riparian forest at the basin and serve as a sort of laboratory of restoration technology. To volunteer for this year's planting, consult the CALENDAR for available dates.

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### **UC RIVERSIDE ANNOUNCES POSITION**

UC Riverside's Department of Botany and Plant Sciences is seeking an Assistant Extension Natural Resources Specialist and Assistant Plant Ecologist. Applicants must have a Ph.D. and demonstrated expertise in plant biodiversity with emphasis on effects of urbanization and plant community fragmentation, and a strong basic knowledge of

*continued page 4*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 9, SATURDAY, 9AM-11AM: Halfway Point Nature Walk, sponsored by the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy. A chance to learn more about an ecologically sensitive area which is the subject of a proposed development. South Coast Chapter CNPS; call 519-8164 for information.

MAY 10, SUNDAY, 8AM: Field trip, Orchard Camp. See p. 1.

MAY 9-10, SATURDAY-SUNDAY: Grass Identification Workshop, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont. Native Grass Association. Contact Patti Gouveia, Parks Dept./ City of Davis, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis CA 95616.

MAY 9-10, SATURDAY-SUNDAY: Sierra Club Matilija Creek backpack. Annual trek into Matilija at peak of wildflower season. Moderate hiking, 5-7 miles/day w/ stream crossing through gorge. Bring food for potluck salad. Send 2 large SASE w/ two \$5 checks (one refunded if you participate) to ldr. Bill Crane, 15101 Magnolia Blvd #H-10, Sherman Oaks 91403.

MAY 11, MONDAY, 12:10-12:50: The Spring Annual Wildflower Collection, with Sally Isaacson. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

MAY 13, WEDNESDAY, 7:30: Pasadena Sierra Club, Conservation Committee meeting. For people interested in environmental activism. Pasadena Public Library, San Rafael Branch, corner Ave 64 and Nithsdale Rd. Details Rick Fisher, 818/798-7270.

MAY 15-17, FRIDAY-SUNDAY: Annual Sierra Club Nature Knowledge Workshop. Enjoy a weekend of fun and learning in the Barton Flats area of the San Bernadino Nat'l Forest. \$85 Sierra Club Members; \$90 non members. Details Sherry Ross 310/429-6953.

MAY 16-17, SATURDAY-SUNDAY, 9AM (late arrivals welcome): Restoration work, Prado Basin (see p. 2). Call 1-800-733-1763.

MAY 18, MONDAY, 12:10-12:50: The Drought Tolerant Shade Plant Collection, with Carolin Cooper. Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

MAY 21, THURSDAY, 7:00PM: Monthly meeting, Milt McCauley. See p.1. **BOARD MEETING, 6:15; PLANT ID SESSION, 7-7:30.**

MAY 21, THURSDAY, 7:30PM: California Ancient Forest Alliance. Join other activists in planning strategies to protect ancient forests. Angeles Chapter Sierra Club Office, 3550 W 6th St #321. Details Ned Boyer, 818/792-2284.

MAY 23, SATURDAY, 9AM (late arrivals welcome): Restoration work -- plant maintenance. Kern River Preserve. Call 1-880-733-1763.

MAY 23-24, SATURDAY-SUNDAY, 9AM: Restoration, Prado Basin. Details 1-800-733-1763.

MAY 24, SUNDAY, 9AM: Field trip, Devil's Punchbowl. Details Rick Fisher, 818/798-7270.

JUNE 3, WEDNESDAY, 7:30PM: Monthly meeting, Pasadena Sierra Club. Bob Barnes, Co-founder of the Kern River Research Center, will present an illustrated program on the history and preservation

of the Kern River watershed. Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

**JUNE 4, 11, 10AM-12NOON:** An Introduction to the Culture and Use of Herbs, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

**JUNE 6, SATURDAY, 9AM:** Prado Basin restoration. Weed Bashing. Details 1-800-733-1763.

**JUNE 13, SATURDAY, 9AM:** Restoration, Kern River Preserve. Details 1-800-733-1763.

**JUNE 18, THURSDAY, 7:00PM:** Monthly meeting, native herbs. See p. 1.

**JUNE 20, SATURDAY, 9AM:** Prado Basin restoration. Weed bashing. Details 1-800-733-1763.

**JUNE 21, SUNDAY, 9AM:** Field trip, Charleton Flat. See p. 1.

**JUNE 19-21, FRIDAY-SUNDAY:** CNPS Training sessions in Plant Community mapping, James Reserve, San Jacinto Mountains. Details Orange Coast Chapter, 519-8164.

**JUNE 20, SATURDAY:** Orange Coast Chapter hike, Crystal Cove State Beach, Orange County. Easy 5 mile route through oak groves and diverse plant communities. Details 519-8164.

**JUNE 21, SUNDAY, 9AM:** Field trip, Charleton Flat. Details P. 1.

**JUNE 22, MONDAY, 8AM-5PM:** Symposium: "Restoration and Creation of Wetlands in Coastal and Southern California." Held in conjunction with Pacific Division of American Assoc. for Advancement of Science, at UC Santa Barbara, Buchanan Hall, Rm 1940. Includes field trip to Santa Barbara vernal pools, led by Wayne Ferren Jr., curator of UCSB Herbarium, on Tuesday, June 23. Meeting information: Pacific Division AAAs, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 94118.

**JUNE 24, WEDNESDAY:** "Protecting California Native Plant Communities" -- Symposium at UC Santa Barbara Campus, co-sponsored by CNPS.

**JUNE 27, SATURDAY, 9AM:** Kern River Preserve, restoration. Plant maintenance. Details 1-800-733-1763.

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The Newsletter of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the California Native Society is published bi-monthly and is free to Chapter members. Non-member subscription \$4.00. To join the California Native Plant Society, write to CNPS, 909 12th St. Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814; specify San Gabriel Mountains Chapter. Enclose check payable to CNPS. Membership: Individual/library -- \$25; Student/retired/limited income -- \$18; family/group -- \$35; supporting -- \$50.

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*UC Riverside, continued*

plant community ecology and a knowledge of, or willingness to learn, the California flora. Research responsibilities will emphasize the development of improved methods for maintaining, augmenting and restoring biodiversity. For further information contact the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, UC Riverside, 714/787-4413. Application deadline is May 22, 1992.

**THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
ACADEMY OF SCIENCES ANNUAL  
MEETING; OR, HOW I SPENT THE  
RIOTS OF (MAY) 1992.**

*-by Becky Rothenberg*

At first it was a little hard to concentrate, what with our city splitting open along economic and racial fault lines, revealing a social tectonics every bit as shaky as its geology... I had just determined that we should all devote ourselves 100% to healing the rifts between us and our brothers and sisters when keynote speaker Peter Raven stirringly exhorted us to total political commitment on behalf of the global environment. I was dismayed; this seemed to add up to 200% of possible group effort -- and what was the connection? What was the interface between The Interface Between Ecology and Land Development in California and, say, South-Central LA? (I'm not saying there *isn't* a connection; I just couldn't figure it out at eight in the morning.) And when Douglas Wheeler further encouraged us to dedicate ourselves to the pragmatic compromises of local growth management and habitat protection, that was 300%, and I wanted to go home and pull the covers up.

But soon the smell of eucalyptus replaced smoke on Occidental's sleepy campus, sirens faded, donuts and fruit appeared at regular intervals, and we all got down to the business of selecting items from the intellectual smorgasbord Jon Keeley had assembled for us: four concurrent sessions, each with a presentation every half-hour, each more compelling than the last. Every participant emerged with a sheaf of notes, but here's a random sample of what I learned (times being what they are, I seem to have come away with political messages.)

1. THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT IS IN TROUBLE. It's up for reauthorization (re-funding) and several ominous amendments have been proposed to consider economic consequences when listing a species and to require that private property owners be compensated for any economic impact that

might ensue from listing. We should write our US Reps. in support of the Studts Bill (H.R. 4045) for reauthorization. (*per Jim Bartel, US Fish & Wildlife*)

2. ANNUALLY, MORE MONEY IS SPENT ON ORDERING DOMINO'S PIZZAS FOR CAPITOL HILL THAN ON ENFORCEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT. (*op. cit.*)

3. BIOREGIONAL, PROACTIVE PLANNING IS THE ANSWER FOR CALIFORNIA. We should write our California reps. in support of the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for Bioregional Planning and the Sierra Summit -- and of AB2172, which proposes a proactive approach to habitat conservation called "Natural Communities Conservation Planning." (*Douglas Wheeler, Secretary for Resources for California.*)

4. NOT EVERYONE AGREES WITH DOUG WHEELER. "Natural Communities Conservation Planning" involves voluntary agreements between developers and environmentalists which may be just so much "happy talk" at this point. Specifically, in regard to Coastal Sage Scrub it seems to be a tactic to circumvent the Endangered Species Act, and while the cordial talk proceeds the bulldozers roll. (*per Dan Silver, Endangered Habitats League.*)

5. GIS MAPPING SOFTWARE TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT NATURE PRODUCES PATTERNS AT ALL SCALES. Biodiversity software can characterize landscape mosaics, compare mosaics, and produce "landscape accounting" -- pinpoint rare species, habitat types, etc. (This was a very interesting talk to which I'm not doing justice. To a closet tekkie, GIS seemed like a powerful tool.) (*per G. Greenwood, Cal. Dept. of Forestry.*)

It was an overwhelming, stimulating weekend on many levels. The proceedings from the symposium will be published in the Fall; information can be obtained from Jon Keeley.

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