



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MAY AND JUNE 1993 NEWSLETTER

PROGRAMS:

General meetings are at 7:30 in room 113 of the Biological Science Bldg at Occidental College. See back page for map. Members are invited to join guest speakers for dinner before each program; see descriptions below for details.

May 29, 1993:

Dr. Beth Braker on "Conservation of Native California Insects; The Impact of Host Plants and Habitats."

Native insects and plants often play a crucial role in each other's lifecycles. In order to preserve native insect species we must understand the ecology and distribution of their host plants and habitats, which is Dr. Braker's area of expertise. A Professor of Biology at Occidental College, her specialty is the feeding ecology of grasshoppers. And speaking of feeding, our pre-program **DINNER** will be at 5:30 at Casa Bianca Italian Restaurant, 1650 Colorado Blvd in Eagle Rock (between Figueroa and Eagle Rock Blvds.)

June 17, 1993:

Robert Cornell on "Native Gardens - A Walk on the Wild Side."

Robert Cornell's slide show and presentation will feature local gardens that consist predominantly of natives, or incorporate native

plants, and will showcase native species available for residential landscaping. Cornell is a prominent landscape designer and contractor specializing in ecologically sound gardens (he designed the Henry Soto Water Conservation Garden at the LA Arboretum.) He is also involved in the Greater LA Green Industry Council, and has been attempting to draft an LA Landscaping Ordinance. Cornell's gardens are beautiful, classy examples of the ecological landscaper's art. **DINNER:** Merida Yucatan Restaurant, 20 E. Colorado, Old Town Pasadena.

ESTIVATION: No more programs or newsletters until September. Look for special Summer Supplement detailing summer field trips.

FIELD TRIPS:

For further information, call Horace Birgh @ (213) 955-1651 (days); (213) 667-1726 (evenings).

SATURDAY, MAY 29, 9AM: CRYSTAL LAKE TO THROOP PEAK

This hike to the high peaks of the San Gabriel watershed (Mt. Islip, Mt. Hawkins, Throop Peak) starts at Crystal Lake and meanders upslope through delicate Gilias and Wild Onions to Windy Gap. At the trail junction we head toward Throop Peak in search of the elusive David's Fritillary (*Fritillaria pinetorum*). This seldom-seen lily mimics the speckled coloration of the granite scree on which it grows--making it virtually invisible to

the casual hiker. Along the way, we will detour down to Lily Spring to investigate its high Sierran flora.

Directions: North parking lot at Crystal Lake Recreation Area. Drive the 210 freeway to Azusa, exit on Route 39 and go left (north) 25 miles up San Gabriel Canyon to Crystal Lake. Look for the trailhead sign "WINDY GAP TRAIL" on the north side of the parking lot.

Difficulty: About 7 miles round trip; moderate to strenuous; 2200' elevation gain.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 9AM: UPPER EATON CANYON-IDLEHOUR TRAIL CAMP

Described by John Robinson in his book Trails of the Angeles as "a secluded spot of unusual natural charm" and "a favorite of lovers of sylvan seclusion," Idlehour Trail Camp provides not only nearly pristine beauty with its lush plant life (the state-listed Greata's Aster is reported from Eaton Canyon), but also a wonderful haven for bird life. The route up the Mt. Wilson Toll Road, past Henninger Flats, avoids the treacherous canyon walls of the lower gorge near Eaton Falls and takes us through some of the front range's most scenic country.

Directions: Pinecrest Drive at the start of the Mt. Wilson Toll Road, off Altadena Drive (this is near Eaton Canyon Nature Center).

Difficulty: About 7 miles round trip; moderately difficult.

CHAPTER ROAMS ANTELOPE VALLEY

On Saturday, April 17, a joint caravan of San Gabriel Mts and Santa Monica CNPS members meandered from Vazquez Rocks through Pearblossom, Little Rock, and Greater Palmdale in search of spring wildflowers of the high desert. Sheep-like we followed leaders Horace Birgh and Geoff Burleigh, who had scouted the area days before, into "the middle

of @#*&%@! nowhere", as one driver described it. Luckily the snow-capped "backside" of the San Gabriels were always visible, so we could have made our way back to that Big Town South of Palmdale if Horace and Geoff had deserted us.

Among our strange and beautiful discoveries along the way were Desert Rhubarb (*Rumex hymenosepalus*) with their tall stalks of rose-colored Hydrangea-like flowers; Desert Candles, *Caulanthus inflatus* (more strange than beautiful); Desert Asters, *Machaeranthus tortifolia* - fringed lavender flowers the size of dinnerplates. Other highlights:

- Lasthenia chripostema* (Goldfields)
- Malcothrix glabrata* (Desert Dandelion)
- Anisocoma acaulis* (Scale Bud)
- Larrea tridentata* (Creosote Bush)
- Linanthus parryae* - blue and white
- Grayia spinosa* (Hop-sage)
- Nama dimissum*
- Camissonia ignota*
- Coreopsis bigelovii*
- Phacelia tanacetifolia* (Lacy Phacelia)
- Camissonia claviformis* (Brown-eyed Evening Primrose)
- Gilia latiflora* (Davy Gilia)
- Salvia dorrii* (Desert Sage, Blue Sage)
- Layia glandulosa* (Desert Tidy-tips)

[Thanks to Rosetta Bentley for her field notes.]

GOLDEN TROUT WORKSHOPS

Local chapters of the National Audubon Society will once again sponsor three one-week workshops at Golden Trout Camp in the High Sierra, from August 1 through August 21, 1992. Visiting guest naturalists (including our chapter's Micky Long) will lead hikes and teach informal natural history sessions in the field. The semi-primitive camp is located in the Golden Trout Wilderness at an altitude of 10,000 feet. Meals are provided but guests must pack in sleeping bags and personal belongings a distance of about three miles. Reservations should be made as soon as possible: contact Cindi McKernan, 1230 Friar Lane, Redlands CA 92373 (909/793-7897).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 8, Saturday: Restoration of Vernal Pools with Wayne Ferris. Figueroa Mt. Sponsored by Sierra Club Natural Science Section. Details Avis Keedy, 805/967-0593.

May 11, Tuesday, 7:30PM: Santa Monica Chapter Program, "The Legacy of Linnaeus." Jim Folsom of Huntington Gardens. Brentwood Science Magnet School auditorium, Montana and Gretna Green.

May 15, Saturday, 10AM-4PM: Eaton Canyon Open House. Presentations by Audubon Society, CNPS, Sierra Club, bird of prey experts. Tours of facility, hikes throughout day. Details 818/398-5420.

May 15, Saturday, 11:30AM-6PM: "The Future of Rivers in Southern California." Conference presented by Friends of the River at Pasadena City College. Includes workshops, panel discussions, outdoor equip. swap, LA River canoe trip. Speakers include Martha Davis of Mono Lake Committee and Lewis MacAdams. Registration \$12.00; contact Karen Norman, 818/575-8105(w) or 818/356-0849(h).

May 16, Sunday, 9AM-4PM: Annual Plant Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens. New & hard to find trees, shrubs, vines; rare palms, ferns, tropicals; cacti, succulents, houseplants; roses, old & new; herbs, perennials; bamboos, bromeliads, bulbs, orchids. 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

May 18, Tuesday, 6:45PM: Evenings in the Arroyo. Pasadena Sierra Club. Easy hike on level trails along Arroyo Seco. Meet at San Pasqual Stables, 221 San Pascual, at Pasadena-So. Pasadena border. Details David Czamanske, 818/441-8916 or Bonnie Strand, 213/257-6120.

May 20, Thursday, 7:30PM: General meeting, Occidental College. Details, P. 1.

May 21-23, Friday-Sunday: Nature Knowledge Workshop. Sierra Club, Natural Science Section, Barton Flats residential camp in San Bernardino. Fee \$95. Details Avis Keedy, 805/967-0593.

May 21-24: Desert Research Symposium, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands. Includes field trips to Mecca Hills, Anza Borrego, Murietta, San Timoteo Badlands. \$15. Details Jennifer Reynolds, MDQRC, San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands 92374.

May 22, Saturday, 9AM-1PM: Rancho Santa Botanic Gardens. Lecture: California Native Orchids; Workshop: Propagating Orchids. Details RSBG Education Dept., 909/626-1917.

May 23, Sunday: Santa Monica Chapter wildflower walk in honor of Linnaeus' birthday. Details George Stevenson, 310/472-5464.

May 28-29, Friday-Saturday: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. Ninth Annual Southwestern Botanical Systematics Symposium. Details 909/626-1917. See article, P. 4.

May 29, Saturday, 9AM: Field trip, Crystal Lake to Throop Peak. Details P. 1.

May 30(?), Sunday, 9AM: Field trip, San Bernardino/Riverside Chapter. San Mateo Cyn Wilderness. Meet at Tenaja Guard Sta. on Sta Rosa Plateau w. of Murrieta (Clinton Rd w to Tenaja -- sharp r at Volvano Rd to stay on Tenaja -- and continue w on Tenaja; Station is shown on AAA Club maps.) Moderate 8-mile hike down into Tenaja Cyn at intersection of Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange Cos. Bring water; dress for hot and cool temps. Details Steve Boyd, 909/781-5964 (eves.) **NOTE: DOUBLE-CHECK DATE ON THIS; INFO I RECEIVED HAD "SUN. MAY 28."**

June 5, Saturday: Wildflower walk in Santa Monica Mts. 3-5 mile walk, based on best bloom. Opportunities for casual and serious wildflower lover, photographer. Details Jo Kitz, 818/348-5910.

June 5, Saturday: CNPS State Board Meeting. Alta Peak Chapter hosts at Beetle Rock, Giant Forest, Sequoia Nat'l Park. If interested in attending, contact Melanie Baer-Keeley, 818/249-1749.

June 8, Tuesday, 7:30PM: Santa Monica Chapter General Mtng. "Ecological Habitat Restoration on an Oceanic Desert Island"; Thomas Keeney of Pt. Mugu Naval Station talks about St. Nicolas Island. See May 11 for directions.

June 26-27, Saturday-Sunday: joint field trip with Kern Co. and Sta. Monica Chapters to Kern Plateau, Horse Meadow Cmpgd. Elev. 7600 ft. Details George Stevenson, 310/472-5464.

June 17, Thursday, 7:30PM: General meeting, Occidental College. Details P.1.

June 19, Saturday, 9AM: Field trip, Upper Eaton Cyn. Details P. 1.

July 23-25, Friday-Sunday: Pasadena Sierra Club hosts Sequoia Car Camp in Sequoia National Forest. Hiking in Giant Sequoias, conservation workshops w/ forest activists. Details Bonnie Strand, 213/257-6120.

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.

RANCHO SANTA ANA HOSTS SYMPOSIUM

The Ninth Annual Southwestern Botanical Symposium will be held May 28 and 29 at the Plant Sciences Center Auditorium of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 No College Ave., Claremont, CA.

C. Thomas Philbrick, experimental Taxonomist at RSABG, will moderate the proceedings and present a paper on "Biology, Ecology, and Evolution of Water Pollination. Robert Ornduff of UC Berkeley will deliver the keynote address, "Tri or Di? Reflections on Heteromorphism."

The Garden's library and herbarium will be available before and during the symposium. For further information or to register, call 909/625-8767.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DISCOVER CALIFORNIA

For nine summers La Puente High School's California Geography Field Study has been teaching "environmental literacy" by taking students along the Eastern Sierras. More than 600 students have made the trek through the Mojave to Mono Lake, studying the San Andreas Fault, the politics of water, vulcanism, the culture of California's Indians, and the geology of the Sierras.

These kids come from predominantly low-income Latino families, and many have never before been outside of the LA Basin. The non-profit program relies on donations from business, foundations, citizens, and friends. The cost per student is a modest \$125. For more information, contact THE CALIFORNIA GEOGRAPHY FIELD STUDY, 15959 East Gale Avenue, PO Box 60002, City of Industry, CA 91716-0002 (818/336-1241.)

NOTES ON THE NEW JEPSON

-by Mickey Long

Weighing in at six pounds and 1400 pages, the Jepson Manual contains keys and descriptions for 5862 species of plants plus 1169 subspecies or varieties. This includes native species and naturalized introductions. The family and generic treatments are written by nearly 200 authors (including our Chapter's Jon Keeley, as well as input from president Melanie Baer-Keeley). The plants are arranged alphabetically within major groups (Ferns and Allies, Gymnosperms, Dicots, Monocots) - that is, alphabetically by family, then by genus within family, then by species within genus, and finally by subspecies and varieties. A very user-friendly feature.

Drawings: about 4000 taxa are illustrated in over 200 plates, placed close to the plant's text description. About every third or fourth page in the book is a full plate of illustrations, and these line drawings are generally detailed and excellent, showing important plant parts. **PROBLEMS:** 1) Since approximately 3000 taxa are *not* illustrated, the species you have just painstakingly run through the key, then followed carefully through the description and want to get that "visual confirmation" on may not be illustrated **OR** 2) there may be an excellent enlarged detail of a 4mm fruit or a 1mm seed, but no drawing of the whole plant to make sure you're in the right ball park. However, I recognize that a fully illustrated text would have taken several more years, added several hundred pages and one or two more pounds, and been over budget.

My limited trial usage of the new book yields the following observations:

* I am still trying to get used to the range descriptions which utilize 50 abbreviated geographic subdivisions instead of the old Munz counties, but I must agree that plant ranges follow the "laws" of physical geography much better than those of county boundaries.

* The species in the large genus *Haplopappus* or goldenbush, an old favorite of mine for its

wide distribution and variety, have been split up into 8 genera: *Stenotus*, *Isocoma*, *Ericameria*, *Hazardia*, *Prionopsis*, *Tonestus*, *Machaeranthera*, and *Pyrrocoma*. *Haplopappus* is no more. Now, when you think you have an old *Haplopappus* in hand you must plow through the huge Asteraceae family key to find the right genus. With the benefit of alphabetical order comes the disadvantage of having these 8 related general spread throughout the 172 pages of Asteraceae. In truth, most of this "new" taxonomic arrangement goes back many years or decades and apparently reflects more careful study of this large genus. But the detailed listing of synonyms in the back of the text is helpful in finding out what happened to an old friend.

* While keying out a small bright yellow owl's clover I'd found in the foothills of El Dorado County, I had troubles working it through the expected genus *Orthocarpus*. Noticing that some *Orthocarpus* had been moved to the genus *Castilleja* I tried that route to no avail. Then, while checking the drawings, I found a near dead ringer for my plant in *Triphysaria erianthus*, another genus once split off from *Orthocarpus* and now revived. Ironically (for those of us who preach the value of scientific names) the plant retains its common name of butter-and eggs!

Overall, however, the book is an outstanding work updating our knowledge of California's great botanical diversity. It will take a little getting used to but the new Jepson Manual is worth its price.

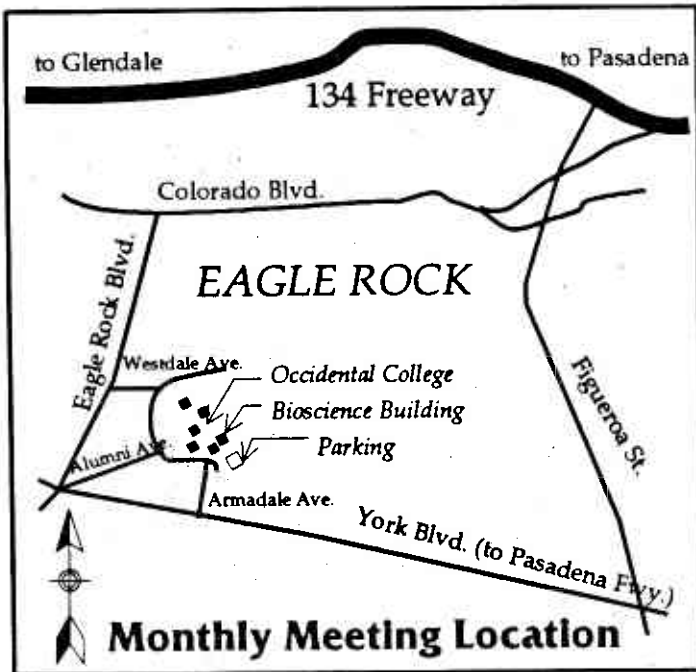
(THE JEPSON MANUAL: HIGHER PLANTS OF CALIFORNIA

James C. Hickman, editor. University of California Press, 1993. \$55.00. \$65.00 after 6/30/93. Contact Melanie Baer-Keeley for more information.)

[Editor's note: if you have observations, experiences, or hot tips concerning the new Jepson Manual, why not share with other CNPS members? Submit them to the newsletter editor.]

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