



# SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 1996

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Thurs., Sept. 19, 7:30pm**

"Native Plants for Shade" by  
Melanie Baer at Eaton Cyn. Nature  
Center

**Sat. Oct. 5, 2:00pm**

Field trip to Rancho Santa Ana  
Botanical Garden with tour of new  
propagating facilities.

**Sat., Oct. 26,**

Field trip to LA County Arboretum  
with tour of new waterwise garden.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*In early August I walked along a Southern Sierra trail which, they tell me, ends in the Little Kern basin. I never make it that far, since it is one of those demoralizing hikes that descends first, so that you know every step you take now just makes things harder for your future self. And I get distracted from my so-called goal by the cool grove of giant Sequoias just below the trail and the creek beyond them.*

*This day I got almost to the end of the grove. At this point on the trail I always become aware of the rush of the wind: the massive trees barely shift, yet there is that sound, tidal, unceasing. I veered down the steep slope on my right, crunching over fir branches bleached and curved like tusks, and settled on the creek bank with my back to a Sequoia big enough to park a VW in. It was about four-thirty. The air was delicious, at 7500 feet a good ten degrees cooler than my cabin. The late sun lit up the lush greenery of the stream and flashed along a spiderweb. The longer I looked the more I saw: columbine and potentilla, fine as webs themselves; a speckled lily, scarlet petals curved back like a banana peel; masses of glowing Senecio triangularis. I thought, right now, at this instant, I am in one of the most beautiful places on the planet.*

*The State CNPS has had a bad year: financial difficulty, hard feelings over the firing of botanist Mark Skinner, and worst of all, the sudden and untimely death of President George Clark. But as always there is a simultaneous renewal: at the State level, a new president, Lori Hubbard; at the regional, Jan Scow, the recently-hired land management analyst for Southern California, who has already lent focus and cohesion to local CNPS efforts; and, in our own chapter, new talent and energy, beginning with Kathy LaShure, the new editor of this newsletter.*

*I trust that we all had at least an instant this summer when the place we were in was the most beautiful on the planet. That's what the CNPS is all about: preserving the possibility of those moments for summers to come.*

## THE FIRST TIME

This is my first issue as editor of the entire chapter news-letter, not just the Calendar section. I hope you will have noticed the new format which I've tried to make "user-friendly". I also will be trying to include new features in future issues. But like any newcomer, I relish knowing what you, the readers, want to read about over your latte—state-wide news, local news, horticultural info, book reviews, outings details, whatever. Please call or write with your suggestions (I'm listed on the back page, next to the map).

Also, please pass along any calendar events (still my responsibility) you'd like included. I'll publish anything of a California Native nature. There will be a deadline for submission in each issue.

If any of you have information you'd like to share with other native plant lovers—a favorite hike, success or failure in growing a particular plant, etc.—I'd be glad to include it. If you don't think of yourself as a writer, call and tell me about it and I'll do the writing. You might also have a question for one of our resident experts.

And I know you've heard it from Becky before, BUT, we can always use help assembling and mailing the newsletter. These tasks are always more fun with more hands. Any volunteers?

Kathy LaShure

## CHAPTER EVENTS

For the remainder of 1996 we will have programs and outings on alternate months. Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the third Thursday of the month.

**Sept. 19, 7:30pm. Native Plants for Shade** by Melanie Baer. Melanie will share suggestions for plantings under native oaks as well as tips for sowing native annuals for spring bloom. She'll also try to answer any gardening questions you might have. The main presentation will be preceded by a short preview of our Oct. 26 outing (see below) given by Katie Bloome (was she destined to be a gardener?) of LA county's Yardwaste Management Program.

**Oct. 5, 2:00pm. Field trip to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont. At 2:00 we will tour the garden itself, followed by a 3:00 tour of the new greenhouse and propagating facilities. This will be a great chance to preview the plants available at their Fall Plant Sale, Nov. 2-3. Meet at entrance (NE corner of parking lot). There is no entrance fee but donations are welcome. You might want to arrive early to explore the grounds on your own or to visit the Bookstore. For more info call Becky at 818-797-2494.

**Oct. 26, 2:00pm. Field trip to Waterwise Garden at LA County Arboretum**, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. We will tour this new area installed by Yardwaste Management, a county program that manages 15 demonstration compost sites (including one at Eaton Canyon), 5 of which are gardens. There is a \$5.00 admission fee. Meet at the Waterwise Garden (ask at the entrance desk for directions). Again, you might want to arrive early to enjoy other areas of the Arboretum. For more info call Becky at 818-797-2494.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Eaton Canyon Nature Center** which provides our meeting place will be starting their fall Docent/Naturalist training program in September. Members will learn about local native flora and fauna and acquire the skills to share this knowledge with others. Classes will meet on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30am to noon for 10 weeks. The first class session is on September 10. Call 818-398-5420 to sign up or ask questions.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sept. 10, Tues, 9:30am - 12noon:** first class session for Eaton Canyon Nature Center docent/naturalist training. See below for details.

**Sept. 19, Thurs, 6:00pm:** Our Chapter Board Meeting at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. All members are invited to help plan this year's events.

**Sept. 19, Thurs, 7:30pm:** Our bi-monthly program, **Native Plants for Shade** by our own Melanie Baer, see page 2 for details.

**Oct. 4-6, Fri-Sun: CalEPPC Symposium '96.** Speaker presentations, group meetings, field trips dealing with information & action regarding invasive exotic pests in California's natural areas. Dr. Michael Barbour, keynote speaker. In San Diego. Reservations required. For information: 916-921-5911.

**Oct. 5, Sat, 2:00pm:** Our bi-monthly outing, **field trip to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden's new propagating facility**, see page 2 for details.

**Oct. 25, Fri:** Deadline for Nov-Dec newsletter. Call Kathy at 818-355-7064.

**Oct. 25-27, Fri-Sun, 8:30am - 4:30pm:** Theodore Payne Foundation **Fall Native Plant Sale**. Friday is members-only day so join to get the best selection and beat the weekend crowds.  
Location: 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley. For information call 818-768-1802.

**Oct. 26, Sat:** a bonus fall outing, **field trip to Los Angeles County Arboretum's new Waterwise Garden**, see page 2 for details.

**Nov. 2-3, Sat-Sun: Fall Plant Sale** at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont. Members only: Sat. 8am - 11am; general public Sat. 11am - 4pm & Sun. 9am - 1pm.

**Nov. 6, Sun, 6:00pm:** Public Hearing before the LA County Regional Planning Dept. on **Newhall Ranch development**. Location: Valencia High School, 27801 Dickasen, Santa Clarita. See page 4 for additional information.

The Newsletter of the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the California Native Plant Society is published bi-monthly and is free to Chapter members. Non-member subscription is \$5.00.

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To join the California Native Plant Society, write to  
CNPS, 909 Twelfth St., Suite 116, Sacramento, CA 95814;  
please specify San Gabriel Mountains Chapter.  
Enclose check payable to CNPS. Membership categories: Individual/  
Library - \$35; Student/Retired/Limited Income - \$20; Family/Group - \$45;  
Supporting - \$75.

## REGIONAL NEWS

### *Newhall Ranch Development*

The Environmental Impact Report on the massive 24,000 home project along the Santa Clara River west of I-15 has just been released for comment. This project will have a significantly adverse impact on the river and its adjoining ecosystems.

You may remember the report that CNPS Land Management Analyst Jan Scow gave to our chapter in April. He shared wonderful slides of the river corridor and the upslope watershed lands that would be negatively impacted by this development.

The Friends of the Santa Clara River, our chapter, other CNPS chapters, as well as many other organizations have already voted to oppose this project. But additional help is needed. Please write opposition letters and/or appear at hearings.

Write to:

Lee Stark, Project #94-087  
LA County Regional Planning Dept.  
320 W. Temple St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Public Hearing:  
Nov. 6, 6:00pm  
Valencia High School  
27801 Dickasen  
Santa Clarita

For more information call  
805-498-4323.

## CNPS FEDERAL ACTION ALERT

Emily Roberson, CNPS Senior Land Management Analyst has provided the following election-year information.

*“The Federal legislative landscape has improved considerably. The momentum has clearly turned against the anti-environmental extremists in Congress. However, the situation is complicated by the fact that many Democrats, including the President, seem over-eager to strike unnecessary compromises with anti-environmental forces, even as the public rallies to defend the environment.*

*Legislative activity is beginning to slow down as the President, Congress and the Senate begin to focus on the November elections. However, attempts are being made to pass last minute special-interest legislation, including anti-environmental legislation, and dangerous last minute compromises are being struck.*

*Both Democrats and Republicans, including the President, need to hear that our Federal environmental laws work; that we want them preserved or strengthened; and that we favor strong protection for the environment and public lands.”*

*Emily has provided detailed analysis of several pieces of pending legislation that deal with parks and public lands, grazing reform, National Forest management, salvage logging, the Endangered Species Act, and takings. I will bring copies of her work to our chapter meeting Sept. 19 along with names and addresses of those in Washington to whom you may wish to write.*

*If a detailed response to these issues seems daunting, Emily suggests a general letter of support for environmental laws and provides a sample, courtesy of Sally de Becker (East Bay Chapter):*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

*I care about the environment. I do not want any environmental laws weakened, and I will pay attention to how you vote to protect my interest.*

*Surely we can all manage a postcard or two with such a simple, direct message. And in an election year staying informed on the issues is of special importance.*

## THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

I think most Southern Californians have been conditioned by *Sunset* magazine to think of Fall as garden time. Certainly, after the long dry hot spell of summer we eagerly anticipate the first rains in October which signal the main planting season here. While we're waiting for that moisture to arrive we can plan our garden adventures for the year. In this edition I'd like to share two books that provide both inspiration and information for those adventures.

*Native Gardens for Dry Climates* by Sally Wasowski with Andy Wasowski (Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 1995, \$35.00) is a handsome volume that is also a "good read". The first section defines three ways to landscape with native plants—formal, naturalistic, and habitat. Complete plans with plant lists are included for theme gardens—curandera, moon-light, thornless, fragrance, songbird, hummingbird, and outdoor garden room.

Then comes a plant glossary—including trees, succulents, leafy ever-green shrubs, sunny and shady ground covers, perennial flowers, annual flowers, and vines with color photos, growing information, and ideas for plant combinations and substitutions.

At the end of the book are indigenous charts, a regional zone map, a directory of nurseries and information resources, and an extensive bibliography.

My second selection is actually a set of two books by Judith Phillips: *Natural by Design: Beauty and Balance in Southwest Gardens* and *Plants for Natural Gardens: Southwestern Native and Adaptive Trees, Shrubs, Wildflowers, and Grasses* (Museum of New Mexico Press, 1995, \$55.00/boxed set or \$29.95/each). Although these books are written for gardeners in the Southwest, I've found them to have lots of ideas that translate to my gardens in Sierra Madre and Bishop which at various times share the extremes of temperature, sparse rainfall, poor soils, and blasting winds of Arizona and New Mexico. The first volume explains how native plants deal successfully with these adverse conditions. Then the author provides landscape designs based on the major southwest ecosystems—uplands, shrub desert/grasslands, and oases. These ecosystems are the basis for the rich and varied plant palette in the second volume. There are illustrated profiles of more than 180 trees, shrub, wildflowers, and grasses native to the high desert region of the Southwest with references to 450 plants in all.

I find myself using these books regularly to learn more about plants I've bought or am growing myself, and as an inspiration to try new combinations of plants or fine tune the ecological-niche habitats (pinyon-juniper woodland, desert riparian, etc.) I've started in my Bishop garden. And the books are so beautifully illustrated that they're fine for browsing when it's hot out and it seems that the rain will never come. Have faith—it will.

Kathy LaShure

## BOOKSHELF NOTES

Here are some additional books for your native gardening adventures.

*Complete Garden Guide to the Native Perennials of California* by Glenn Keator (Chronicle Books, 1990)

*Complete Garden Guide to the Native Shrubs of California* by Glenn Keator (Chronicle Books, 1994)

*Gardener's Guide to California Wildflowers* by Kevin Connelly (Theodore Payne Fdn., 1991)

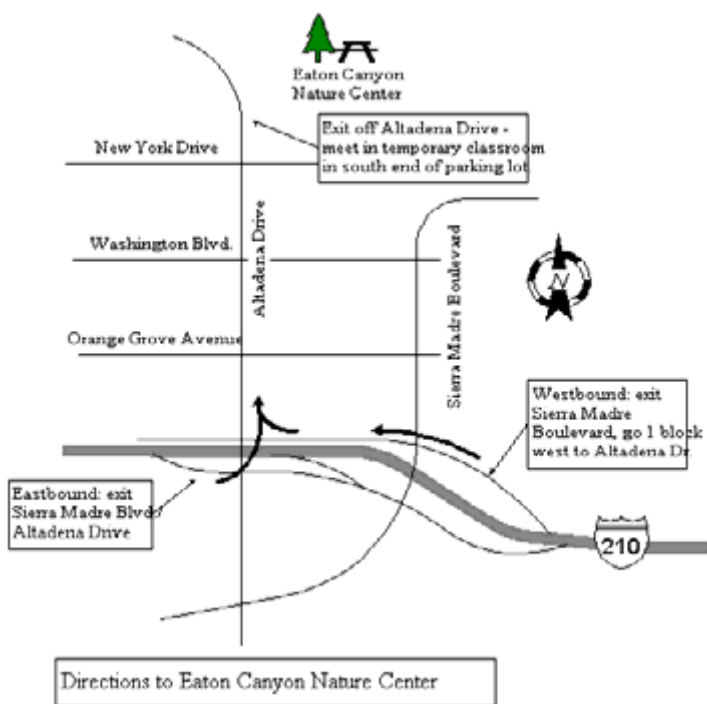
I also highly recommend *Growing Native*, a delightfully chatty but also informational and inspirational bi-monthly newsletter. Editor Louise Lacey provides the personal (and often amusing) experience of long-time growers. A year's membership costs \$30.00. Write:

Growing Native  
P.O. Box 489  
Berkeley, CA 94701



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*Dedicated to the Preservation of the California Native Flora*

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide nonprofit organization of amateurs & professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding & appreciation of California's native plants & to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, & conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal *Fremontia*, the quarterly *Bulletin* which gives statewide



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San Gabriel Mountains Chapter  
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