



# SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

APRIL & MAY 1997

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Mar. 19, Wed, 7:30 pm:**  
Calochorti & their Habitats by  
Hugh McDonald at Eaton  
Canyon Nature Center.

**Apr. 11-12, Sat-Sun:** Wind  
Wolves Preserve field trip.

**Apr. 17, Thurs, 7:30 pm:** Plant  
Family Identification by R.T.  
Hawke at Eaton Canyon Nature  
Center.

**Apr. 19, Sat 9 am:** Photo Foray to  
Castaic burn area with Rick Fisher.

NOTE: March meeting on Wed. night

## WIND WOLVES PRESERVE

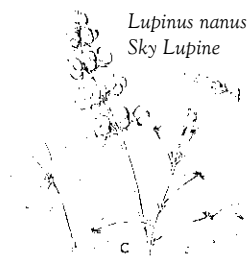
In April we (several CNPS chapters and Southern California Botanists) will have the privilege to visit an intriguing new nature sanctuary, the Wind Wolves Preserve. It was created with the purchase of the San Emigdio ranch, one of the three largest ranches remaining in southern California, by the Wildlands Conservancy. The ranch had been slated to become another large-scale planned community. But the developer was killed in an automobile accident and his heirs decided that the unique character of the area would be best served by sale to a conservation agency.

On April 11-12, our Chapter's Field Trip Chair, R. T. Hawke will introduce us to this important area which serves as a wildlife corridor across the San Emigdio Mtns., connecting the Coast Ranges with the Sierra Nevada. The preserve covers nearly 90,000 acres and encompasses grasslands, chaparral, blue oak woodland and pine forests. It rises from near sea level to above 6,000 feet. Preserve staff will guide us to the areas with the best floral displays.

Another of those intrepid women botanists, Alice Eastwood, collected extensively in the San Emigdio region in 1893 on her first long collecting trip after becoming Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences and again in 1894. Among the plants she collected was the type of the rare *Haplopappus squarrosus* ssp. *obtusus*. If you want to learn more about the flora of the area prior to the field trip, I recommend the classic work *A Flora of Kern County* by Ernest C. Twisselmann (CNPS, 1995).

Both participants & vehicles will be limited for this outing, so reservations are a must. Primitive camping is available on the property, but access is difficult as most roads are 4-wheel drive. Some vehicles will be left at the entrance, so please carpool, if possible. Gates will be opened Sat. morning (possibly Fri. night & Sun. morning also). Motel accommodations can be found in Bakersfield (about 30 miles away); you may call the Visitors Bureau at 800-325-6001.

To R.S.V.P. or for further information call R.T. Hawke at 619-249-3431 (the best time is 5-6 pm weekdays).



## LUPINES, LUPINES

It was one of those clear, bright, warm days that tell you winter is fading away. Although there was a forecast for continued wind in canyons and passes, on our weekly hike Rich and I decided to explore an area new to us, Santa Clarita Woodlands Park, which has gotten a lot of press lately (*L.A. Times* and March 97 *Sunset*) and rightfully so, as we discovered.

Part of the park burned several years ago and the trail leading out of the upper reaches of Wiley Canyon switchbacks across a south-facing slope that had once been covered with dense scrub. Now the blacked branches of Sugar Bush, *Rhus ovata*, reach through a sea of Arroyo Lupine, *Lupinus succulentus*, thicker than I've seen anywhere. The flower spikes were just beginning to open. In a few weeks you should be able to hike through acres of fragrant blue/purple blooms—but watch out for the bumblebees!

Once the trail reaches the top of the canyon wall there are views to other slopes with patches of blazing poppies, *Eschscholzia californica*. While lupines are thick on the upper slopes of Wiley Canyon, there are many other wildflowers to be discovered—*Pholistoma*, *Phacelia*, *Cryptantha*, *Malacothamnus*, *Mirabilis*, *Lotus*, *Nemophila*, etc. Some of these are blooming now; others will be soon.

Crossing to the shadier north slope you pass through a woodland of Elder-berry, *Sambucus mexicana*, that is just leafing out now. There are grand views of the San Gabriels to the east. You can continue on toward Towsley Canyon but you've seen the best floral displays already. And the trail down to the road is steep. I suggest having lunch or a snack on top of the ridge and returning the way you came. This is a great spring outing!

—Kathy

The park entrance (signed Ed Davis Park) is at 24255 the Old Road, Newhall, ¼ mile west of the Calgrove Blvd. exit off Interstate 5.

## CHAPTER EVENTS

This spring we have an abundance of activities, both programs & outings. Note that the March meeting is on a Wed. evening. Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover).

### PROGRAMS

**March 19, Wed., 7:30 pm. Calochorti & their Habitats** by Hugh P. McDonald who started the *Calochortus Society* in 1989 & edits their newsletter. He will be showing slides of almost all species of this most showy (dare we say, glamorous) family, including never-before-shown Mexican sub-species, and their habitats.



*Calochortus splendens*  
Splendid Mariposa Lily

**April 17, Thurs., 7:30 pm. Plant Family Identification**

by R. T. Hawke. Using live materials, R. T. will explore the major California plant families, revealing their outstanding characteristics—just in time for all those spring wildflower outings.

### OUTINGS

**April 26, Sat., 9:00 am: Photo Foray to Castaic burn area** led by Rick Fisher. Late in August 1996 the Marple Canyon Fire burned 21,418 acres northeast of Castaic Lake. Although the burned area encompassed lands managed by a variety of agencies, the U.S.F.S. decided not to reseed with alien species where they had jurisdiction. So our outing should reveal plenty of annual natives in bloom and sprouts of perennials & shrubs. Expect steep terrain & out-standing displays of such fire-followers as *Phacelia minor* & *P. grandiflora*, *Emmenanthe penduliflora*, *Nemophilas* & others.



*Emmenanthe penduliflora*  
Whispering Bells

Meet at the McDonalds parking lot at Inter-state 5 & Lake Hughes Rd. at 9 am. Bring camera, film, hiking boots, hat, water, lunch. For additional information call Rick at 818-798-7270.

**May 10, Sat., 9:00 am: Lower Arroyo Seco Restoration Field Workshop** led by Rick Fisher. We will be able to explore/inspect two adjacent projects under the Colorado Street Bridge: a BFI mitigation area & the Arroyo Greenway EEM Grant Restoration Project. We'll hear from the people who designed, planted & supervised these projects. Meet at the Casting Ponds in the Arroyo Seco at 9 am. (through by lunch time). For additional information call Rick at 818-798-7270.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 1, Sat, 9 am:** State CNPS meeting at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont. All members are invited to attend. Call State CNPS office for details, 916-447-2677.

**Mar. 15, Sat, 9 am - 4 pm:** **L. A. County Environmental Education Fair.** L.A. County Arboretum.

**Mar. 19, Wed, 7:30 pm:** Our Monthly Program, **Calochorti (Mariposas) & their Habitats** by Hugh McDonald. See page 2 for details.

**Mar. 20, Thurs, 7:00 pm:** Chapter Board Meeting & Potluck at the Keeley's (1249 E. Calaveras, Alta.).

**Mar. 22, Sat:** Orange County Chapter field trip to **Mecca Hills**, to explore spring flora of the Colorado Desert. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714-552-0691.

**Apr. 4-5, Sat-Sun:** Orange Cty Chapter field trip to **Death Valley**. For details call Sarah Jayne , 714-552-0691.

**Apr. 5, Sun, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm:** **Poppy Day!** at the Theodore Payne Foundation, 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley, 818-768-1802.

**Apr. 11-12, Sat - Sun:** trip to **Wind Wolves Preserve** created from the San Emigdio Ranch in southern Kern County. Led by R.T. Hawke. For details see page 1.

**Apr. 17, Thurs, 7:30 pm:** Our Monthly Program, **Plant Family Identification** by R. T. Hawke. See pg. 2.

**Apr. 18-20, Fri - Sun:** San Luis Obispo Chapter **Wildflower Weekend**. "Wildflowers, good company & fabulous food." Fees \$50 - \$95. For registration & information packet send SASE to: David Krause, CNPS, 2425 Sandown Pl., Cambria 93428.

**Apr. 18-19, Fri - Sat:** In celebration of EARTH WEEK 1997, a symposium at Occidental College, **2<sup>nd</sup> Interface Between Ecology & Land Development in California**. For info contact Dr. Jon E. Keeley, Dept. of Biology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, Ca 90041.

**Apr 19-20, Sat - Sun:** Orange County Chapter field trip to **Short Canyon/Ridgecrest Flower Show**. Explore a floristically interesting southeastern Sierra canyon preserved by the Kern County CNPS. The Flower Show will have displays of plants collected from mountain & desert areas. For details call Sarah Jayne at 714-552-0691.

**Apr. 24, Thurs:** Deadline for May-June newsletter. Call Kathy at 818-355-7064.

**Apr. 26, Sat, 9 am:** Our Chapter **Photo Foray to Castaic Burn Area** lead by Rick Fisher. See page 2.

**April 26-27, Sat-Sun:** Bristlecone Chapter trip to **Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge** which has the highest concentration of endemic species in the U.S. For accommodation info call Mark Bagley at 619-873-5326. For trip info call Mary DeDecker at 619-878-2389.

**April 26-27, Sat-Sun:** **Kern Valley Bioregions Festival**. Guided bird & natural history hikes, bird banding demonstrations, activities for children and more. For information call Karen Phillips, 619-378-2407 or Kernville Chamber of Commerce, 619-376-2629.

More events on the next page

**May 2-4, Fri-Sun:** a joint Orange County/San Gabriel Mtns. CNPS field trip to Catalina Island led by R.T. Hawke. This trip will afford an opportunity to see parts of the island that are not on the standard tourist route. Transportation to Catalina is about \$20, round-trip. Accommodations are available in a variety of price ranges & camping is a reasonable option. There will be a \$30/person charge for transportation on the island. If you are seriously interested in this trip, please call Sarah Jayne, 714-552-0691, leaving your name & phone number.

**May 10, Sat:** our Chapter's **Lower Arroyo Seco Restoration Workshop** led by Rick Fisher. See page 2.

**May 15, Thurs: 7:30 pm:** our Chapter meeting **The Inter-relationship Between Local Plants & Birds** by Dustin Alcalá of the Audubon Society.

**May 16-18, Fri-Sun:** a Bristlecone Chapter event, **Eastern Sierra Spring Sojourn**. A variety of outings to Sierra foothills, desert mountains & valleys. \$45 for CNPS members; \$80 for non-members. For registration packet send SASE to Kathleen Nelson, Rt. 1, Box 45C, Gerkin Rd., Bishop, CA 93514.

**June 19-21, Thurs - Sat:** a symposium at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, **Out of the Wild & Into the Garden: California's Horticulturally Significant Plants III**. For a brochure call 909-625-8767, x243.

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## ACTION ALERT

On Feb. 10, 1997 the Los Angeles Times reported that the U.S. Army, "the largest off-road vehicle organization in the nation," wants to spend \$40-million to expand its National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, northeast of Barstow in the Mohave Desert. This expansion of 331,000 acres would impact critical habitat for the desert tortoise, as well as Joshua tree woodlands. The area is bisected by California 127, the southern road into Death Valley National Park. The Army claims that the more extensive war games it wants to pursue would not be conducted in environmentally sensitive areas such as dry lakes, desert streams, and the mountains that are home to desert bighorn sheep. Most of this area is now managed by the BLM.

You may request a copy of the Environmental Impact Statement from:

Mike Dekeyrel, Project Lead  
BLM - Barstow Office  
619-255-8730

Comments on the EIR are due by April 4, 1997 & go to:

ATTN: Ft. Irwin Expansion Proposal  
BLM - Barstow Resource Area  
150 Coolwater Lane  
Barstow, CA 92311

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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.

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;

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## HELP WANTED

The Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers & Native Plants, has two paid positions available:

- \* Customer Service/Sales;
- \* Wildflower Hotline Manager

The first involves answering phones, helping customers, ringing up sales & memberships, etc. The second, which is a 4-month job, requires communication with the agencies that provide current information on wildflower blooms, writing a weekly report & recording that report.

Both positions offer an "unusual opportunity to gain & share knowledge of California native plants in our beautiful 22-acre canyon setting, surrounded by chaparral habitat, with daily access to the library, demonstration gardens and Wildflower Hill trail system.

For further information contact:  
Sabine Hoppner at 818-768-1802

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## PHOTOS WANTED

Photos of scenery, wildflowers and wildlife are needed for a permanent display in the new Eaton Canyon Nature Center.

Contest details can be had from the Center Office, 818-398-5420 or Gabi McLean, 818-966-0580.

## THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

*Nature Guide to the Mountains of Southern California by Car and on Foot*  
Text by Bill Havert and Gary Gray; Illustrations by Sue Adams  
Earth Trails Publications, 1996, \$14.95 paperback

**The mountains are a place of rest, of wonder, of inspiration, and of fun for so many of us in southern California. The more we learn about them, the more we will appreciate and value them.**

**Enjoy them, respect them, treasure them, protect them.**

While wandering through my favorite out-door equipment store during their winter sale last month, I happened by the book section. There weren't many marked-down titles, but this new item caught my eye immediately. I remember how little I knew of California's rich array of flora when I first began hiking in the San Gabriel Mountains years ago. It didn't take very many trips before I started carrying my camera to record the interesting plants I saw. I wish the *Nature Guide to the Mountains of Southern California* had existed back then. It is the best introductory volume I've seen.

The first part of the book, complete with basic maps and detailed descriptions, features a total of eight car tours exploring four mountain areas of Southern California: San Jacinto/Santa Rosa Mountains (3 trips); Cuyamaca Mountains & Mount Palomar (2 trips); San Bernardino Mountains (3 trips); and our own San Gabriel Mountains (one long trip—the complete Angeles Crest Highway).

Next are sections on flora and fauna. The chapter on trees, which is the most complete, includes a user-friendly chart-style key to conifers and line drawings for many other species. The chapters on shrubs (with line drawings), wildflowers, birds, and mammals (again, with line drawings) feature the most common species to be seen on car trips. There are sixteen pages with painted illustrations of selected species of both plants and animals. At the back of the book are a short section on tracking animals and a species checklist.

If you're new to southern California or if you have small children or if you're not up to much hiking, this book may be the one to get you started learning about the plants and animals of our local mountains.

Of course, our San Gabriel Mountains Chapter meetings and outings are also a great (and free, usually) way to get acquainted with the mountains at our backdoor. I hope to be meeting more of you at these activities this spring.

—Kathy



## NATIVE NOTES

As you can see on the Calendar pages, Spring is a time to be out and about. We've had rains and mild winter temperatures, so it should be worth your while to make plans for wildflower trips.

On recent hikes I've seen blooming *Paeonia californica* Wild Peony in the Simi Hills & *Dodecatheon clevelandii* Padre's Shooting Star at Hidden Pond in the back-country of Point Mugu SP. And the desert is starting to bloom also.

To help you plan your outings, here are some useful telephone numbers. The hotlines are usually updated once a week.

### **Wildflower Hotlines:**

Theodore Payne Foundation  
818-768-3533

The Living Desert  
619-340-4954

Anza Borrego Desert State Park  
619-767-4684

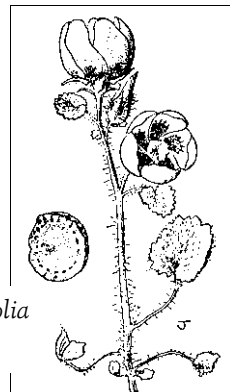
Kern County  
800-500-5376

### **Botanical Gardens:**

The Living Desert  
619-346-5694

Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Garden  
909-625-8767

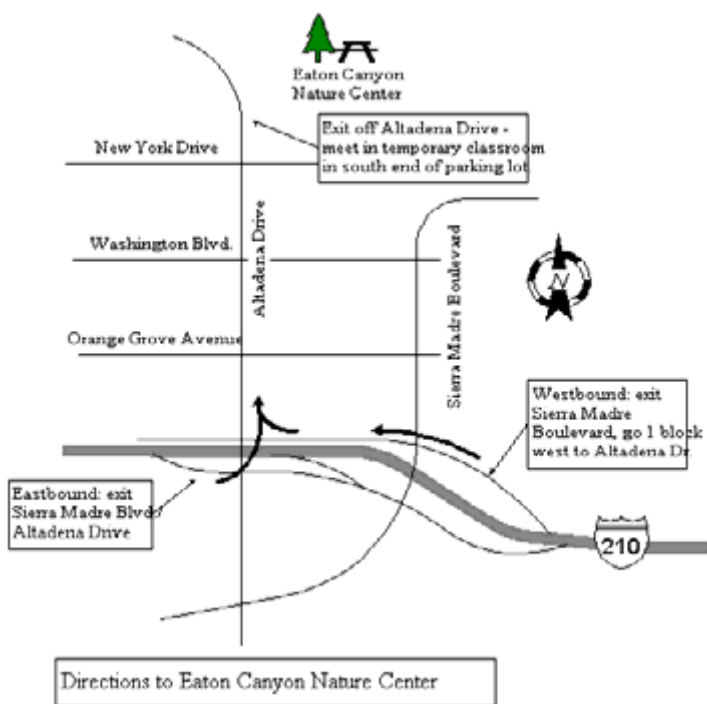
Santa Barbara Bot. Garden  
805-682-4726



*Eremalche rotundifolia*  
Desert Five-spot

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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 news & announcements of Society activities & conservation issues, & the chapter newsletter.



**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**  
**San Gabriel Mountains Chapter**  
 1750 North Altadena Drive  
 Pasadena, California 91107

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