



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 1998

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 22, Thurs., 7:30 pm: *Open Board Meeting.* All members are encouraged to attend.

Feb. 19, Thurs., 7:30 pm: *Black Holes in Southern California Botany* by Andy Sanders of the U. C. Riverside Herbarium.

COMING UP. . .?

Science is not an exact science. Take global warming. It's here, responsible scientists seem to agree on that. So "global warming"—that means every place will get hotter, right? Well, no. The effects are unpredictable; some places might get colder.

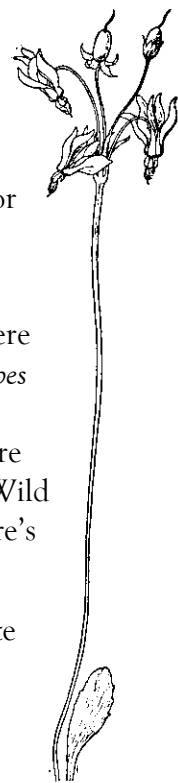
Or take El Nino. He's arrived, in the form of a mass of warm water caught unawares by that paparazzo in the sky, JPL's TOPEX/Poseidon satellite, and so that means a rainy winter, right? And a rainy winter means great spring bloom, right? Well, no, and no. As we all know by now, El Nino may bring more rain. Or not. As Caltech planetary scientists explain it, the Kid increases the probability of a rainy winter—but not to 100%. More like from 50-50 to 75-25. And in fact, as you may have noticed, we're down in rainfall compared with this time last year. And last year, if you'll remember, the rain stopped dead at the end of January.

But even if the odds prevail and we have plentiful winter rains, that doesn't necessarily mean great wildflowers. There are other variables: Mickey Long points out that a non-stop deluge in Eaton Canyon can simply wash away seeds and seedlings. And cold weather can delay bloom, or even nip it in the bud.

But even with modest rain, the chaparral is beginning to awake. Halli Mason reports that in the Santa Monicas there are already showy displays of pink Chaparral Currant (*Ribes malvaceum*), and that the Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) is especially profuse and brilliant this year. The Rhus spp. are loaded with buds, too. Later this month you might find Wild Peony (*Paeonia californica*) in bloom. In Feb. look for Padre's Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon clevelandii*—illus. at right) .

Pray for rain? Let's be more demanding: Pray for moderate rains spaced every two weeks, and not too cold, either, starting NOW, please. Thanks.

—Becky



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

For \$5.00 per issue you may advertise in our newsletter. For information call Kathy at 626-355-7064. We will continue to publish notices from not-for-profit groups for free.

HORTUS *West* Magazine

Our source directory lists **thousands** of western native plants & seeds (even hard-to-find **xeric** & habitat restoration species) *and* the nurseries selling them!

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WELCOME!

New member:

Jean O'Hagan of Pasadena

CHAPTER EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover).

PROGRAMS

Jan. 22, Thurs., 7:30 pm: Open Board Meeting

All members are encouraged to attend this planning event. We'll work on ideas for programs and outings for 1998.

Feb. 19, Thurs., 7:30 pm: Black Holes in Southern California Botany by Andy Sanders of the U. C. Riverside Herbarium.

Amazingly, there's a lot we don't know about plants in this part of the state. There are unexplored regions and poorly collected groups.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We did not have enough members present at the November meeting to hold elections. So we'll try again in February. Thankfully Gabi McLean has volunteered to fill the Programs position. Is there a Vice-President out there? Call Becky if you hanker to be on the Board.

THANK YOU

I guess it never hurts to ask. My plea for willing hands to help with the various tasks needed to put out the Newsletter brought positive responses from Norman Frank, Betty Peterson and Susan Hobbs. It's wonderful that this committee has new members. Thanks!

FORMER MEMBERS

It is the responsibility of the the State CNPS office to send out notices regarding membership renewal. They also keep us (your local chapter) informed of your status. But we're reluctant to drop anyone from the roles. That's partly because we're a small enough Chapter that we need to keep every name we can in order to maintain our mailing permit. But, more importantly, we feel a sense of responsibility when someone drops their membership. Being small, we may not meet every member's needs but we do try to offer a vary of activities. If you're a non-current member please consider giving us another chance by renewing your membership. And do come to the open Board meeting on Jan. 22 (see above) to share your suggestions for future programs and outings.

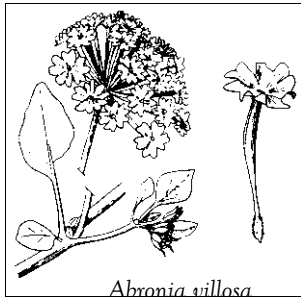
REGIONAL NEWS

At the December 1997 State CNPS Board Meeting it was decided that Jan Scow would continue to work on the Palos Verde NCCP and the Kern County Valley Floor HCP. Also the State organization will be hiring a Conservation Biologist who will work throughout the entire state but who might be based in Southern California. So we're covered! Look for details in the next *Bulletin*.

THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

California's Wild Gardens: A Living Legacy
Edited by Phyllis Faber
CNPS Press, 1997, \$29.95 pb, \$42.95 hc

According to the calendar, winter is only a few weeks old, but the Colorado Desert seems to think it's spring already. On the day after Christmas I saw vibrant pink Sand Verbena (*Abronia villosa*) blooming gloriously along the roadsides along with scattered golden blooms of Dune



Abronia villosa
SAND VERBENA

Marigold (*Baileya pleniradiata*) and Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*). This early showing of desert flowers is due partly to early fall rains from hurricanes that pushed up from Mexico. We've had winter rains also and if they continue in January and February as we've been warned, the true spring season could be spectacular. I plan to be "out among 'em", as my great-grandfather used to say.

The latest and most beautiful publication from the California Native Plant Society Press, *California's Wild Gardens*, is a perfect tool to plan spring and summer wildflower outings around the state. Nearly every page has gorgeous color landscape and floral detail photographs (500 in all) that will lure you to explore the marvelous diversity of California's flora. The book divides the state into 10 ecological regions, each of which is further divided into smaller areas that have rare or endemic plants. These special areas and the efforts to protect them are described by knowledgeable botanists. One could spend years travelling about the state visiting these distinctive plants in their native homes. The CNPS is dedicated to making sure that they'll be there when we come to visit.

—Kathy

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, 1722 J St., Suite 17, 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.



Baileya pleniradiata
DUNE MARIGOLD

BOOKSHELF NOTES

Early last summer I received my first copy of *Stonecrop: A Natural History Book Catalog*. It comes from Denver and is full of wonderful titles (most at full price but some at bargain prices). Books cover a wide variety of topics within the scope of natural history. Also included in each issue are an engaging interview, a review of a new book and a section called *Land Notes* comprised of books that cover a particular place and an article by a guest naturalist who reveals the particular books that help him or her to understand their local environment. All in all, an informative catalog to read (and their service is great, too).

Stonecrop
1-800-666-9002

NATIVE.NET

www.desertusa.com
DesertUSA:
The Ultimate Desert Resource

If the winter rains keep up, the deserts should be prime for wildflowers this spring. And this on-line magazine has it all for planning trips to arid lands. It is full of resources. Besides feature articles (this month's is "Plight of the Desert Bighorn" by Mark Jorgensen) each issue has adventures, camp cuisine, news, a wildflower watch, profiles of animals, plants, people, rocks. You can print out maps and search their *Archives* for past articles and information. Lots of

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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.



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