



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MARCH & APRIL 1998

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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 8, Sun., 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk with Rick Fisher.

March 15, Sun.: Santa Rosa Plateau with R. T. Hawke.

Mar. 19, Thurs., 7:30 pm: Foot-hill Plants by Cynthia Null.

March 27-29, Sat-Sun: Wind Wolves Preserve with R. T. Hawke.

April 12, Sun., 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk with Rick Fisher.

Apr. 16, Thurs., 7:30 pm: Irrigation for the Native Plant Garden by Rick Fisher.

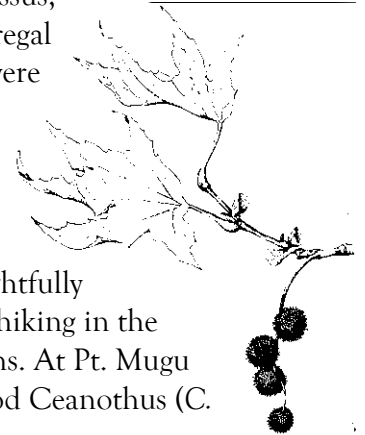
SPRING

No work today—it's the Presidents' Holiday—and I've just returned from an invigorating morning walk. After dropping off my paper recyclables, I parked my car under a pair of grand sycamores at the Sierra Madre Park and set off on foot. What a glorious day! Although more rain is forecast for tonight and later in the week, there were only a few puffs of cloud floating through the clear cool air. No matter which direction my feet took me I found my head turning to gaze at the mountains with their coat of chaparral and evergreen trees. Everywhere there were signs that the season is changing here below the San Gabriel Mountains—perky golden narcissus, elegant cabernet-colored saucer magnolias, regal purple bearded iris. Even some sycamores were beginning to leaf out.

Which brings me to the point that the hybrid plants in our front yard gardens are not the only harbingers of Spring. In January, which you will remember was delightfully balmy, I saw plenty of signs of spring while hiking in the Santa Monica and Santa Susanna Mountains. At Pt. Mugu State Park there were clouds of white Big-Pod Ceanothus (*C. megacarpus*) on south facing slopes

and scattered blooms of Bladderpod and Purple Nightshade. As we hiked up Big Sycamore Canyon, Monarch butterflies floated among the leafless trees. A week later on the Chumash Trail in Rocky Peak Park Wild Peonies were just beginning to open. This is the best location I know for catching these notoriously early bloomers and there are large clumps along both sides of the trail not far from the parking area. There were also many characteristic Coastal Sage Scrub shrubs (*Ribes*, *Ceanothus*, *Keckiella*, *Lotus*, *Salvia*, *Encelia*, *Trichostema*, etc.) blooming or budding out.

Since those two hikes, rain has kept Rich and me from our usual Friday outings and we've had to fit in shorter neighborhood walks between the storms. Still, around the Rose Bowl, Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*) is putting on a fine show. And as we walked down Linda



Platanus racemosa
CALIFORNIA

cont. page 2

Vista from the top of Devil's Gate Dam, I saw a carpet of lupine leaves along the curb. You never know where our native plants will show up.

But one place you can always count on seeing them is Eaton Canyon. So starting March 8, our chapter will be leading a **Plant Walk** on the second Sunday of each month at 9:00 am. The walks will provide an opportunity to observe the yearly cycle of the seasons in one location and to learn about ecosystems, plant communities and individual plants. We'll also get to know other native plant lovers. Conservation Chair **Rick Fisher** has agreed to lead the first couple of walks and suggests concentrating on trees and shrubs for the March walk and wildflowers in April and May. He admonishes that only *heavy* rain will cancel the walk. Meet Rick at the trailer at 9 am.

By the way, the **Plant Walks** are an excellent example of *mutualism* (an association between organisms of two different species in which each member benefits) between our chapter of the California Native Plant Society and Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We're providing an activity which any visitor to the park can join and the Nature Center provides a meeting place for our programs. So feel free to bring your friends and relations to the **Plant Walks** if you'd like to introduce them to our local native flora.

—Kathy

WELCOME!

New Member:
C. E. Allen

CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the third Thursday of the month.

PROGRAMS

Mar. 19, Thurs., 7:30 pm: Foorhill Plants by Cynthia Null. This will be a "hands on" workshop by the ECNCA President and long-time volunteer designed to hone your plant identifying skills before you set out to explore the bounty brought by this winter's El Nino storms. Cynthia have you practicing with Eaton Canyon flora. She also will share her knowledge of Indian uses of our local plants.

Apr. 16, Thurs., 7:30 pm: Irrigation for the Native Plant Garden by Rick Fisher. Although you may not be thinking of watering just now—with all the rain we've had, drier times will come. Rick will be sharing his professional insights on keeping your native plants happy.

OUTINGS

March 8, Sun., 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk with Rick Fisher. This is the first of a new monthly activity, sort of a "neighborhood watch." Every 2nd Sunday our Chapter will take a stroll around Eaton Canyon to see what's new in the plant world. This month's walk will focus on trees and shrubs. Meet at the trailer. Do join us.

March 15, Sun.: Santa Rosa Plateau with R. T. Hawke. This 7,000 acre preserve includes random stands of rare Engelmann oaks, vernal pools and flat-topped mesas, each with interesting flora. R. T. will review plant families in the field. Take I-15 south to Temecula. Exit on Clinton Keith Rd. and drive west 6 miles to parking area on left. \$2.00 entrance fee. Please call R. T. at 760-249-3421 to reserve.

March 27-29, Sat-Sun: Wind Wolves Preserve with R. T. Hawke. A repeat of last year's outing with Southern Calif. Botanists to this botanical treasure in the Southern San Joaquin. Primitive camping or local motel. Please call R. T. for information, 760-249-3421.

April 12, Sun., 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk with Rick Fisher. This month's walk will focus on wildflowers. Meet at the trailer.

April 25, Sat., 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon with Harry Spilman. This is a joint outing with the Riverside/San Bernardino Chapter. Harry intends to hike to the waterfall so plan on getting your feet wet.

ANNOUNCEMENT

At the January Board Meeting I announced that in the interest of consistency and planning, material for the newsletter should be submitted at our monthly meetings (the third week of the month). This will give me a week to put the newsletter together and schedule a work party for assembly and mailing. **The deadline dates for 1998 are Apr. 16 for the May-June issue, Aug. 20 for the Sept-Oct issue, Oct. 15 for the Nov-Dec issue and Dec. 17 for the Jan-Feb 1999 issue.**

❁ WILDFLOWER WATCH ❁

According to many sources, this spring promises to have great wildflower showings in many locations. This is thanks to mild winter temperatures and abundant well-spaced rain (some of you must have been praying, as Becky requested in the last newsletter). If you're hoping to catch the show, here are some resources. It's a good idea to check current trail conditions and weather by calling ahead to parks. If you use the Internet, the Death Valley National Park site has a nifty wildflower page with color pictures (see also Native.Net on page 5).

Wildflower Hotlines:

Theodore Payne Foundation	818-768-3533
The Living Desert	760-340-4954
Anza Borrego Desert State Park	760-767-4684
Kern County	800-500-5376
Desert USA Magazine	www.desertusa.com



Ribes aureum
GOLDEN CURRANT

Botanical Gardens:

The Living Desert (Palm Desert)	760-346-5694
Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Garden (Claremont)	909-625-8767
Santa Barbara Botanical Garden	805-682-4726

Parks:

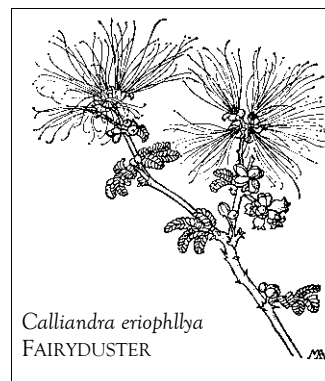
Antelope Valley Calif. Poppy Res.	805-724-1180
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park	619-767-5311
Carrizo Plain Natural Area	805-475-2131 (Thurs. - Sun.)
Coachella Valley Preserve	760-343-2733
Death Valley National Park	760-782-2331 & www.nps.gov/deva/
Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area	805-944-2743
Joshua Tree National Park	760-367-5500 & www.nps.gov/jotr/
Red Rock Cyn. State Park	805-942-0662
Santa Monica Mountains:	
Calif. Dept. of Parks	818-880-0350
Mountains Conservancy hike info	310-589-3200, x302
SMM Natl. Rec. Area	818-597-1036
Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Res.	909-677-6951
Torrey Pines State Park	619-755-2063



Trichostema lanatum
WOOLLY BLUE

National Forests:

Angeles NF:	
Forest Information	626-574-5200
Arroyo Seco District	626-790-1151
Chilao Visitors Center	626-796-5541
Lytle Creek Station	909-887-2576
Los Padres NF:	
Mt. Pinos District	805-245-3731
Ojai District	805-646-4348



Calliandra eriophylla
FAIRYDUSTER

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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OF CALIFORNIA



The California Native Plant Society is a member of Earth Share of California, a Payroll Deduction Plan for the Environment. If Earth Share is not part of your payroll deduction plan in your work-place, please let us know. We would like to change that!

Contact Halli Mason, 818-345-6749, for information.

OTHER EVENTS

March 7-8, 9 am: CNPS State Board Meeting, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont; 916-447-2677.

March 7-8: Resource Conservation District Plant Sale. 122 N. Topanga Cyn. Blvd. Call 310-455-1030 for information.

March 10, 7:30 pm: Weeds, Chaparral & Wildland Fires by Steve Davis, Prof. of Biology, Pepperdine Univ. LA/Santa Monica Chapter meeting at Kenter Cyn. Elem. School, 645 N. Kenter Ave. (1 mile north of Sunset Blvd., west of 405 Fwy.)

March 14, 9 am-4 pm: Environmental Education Fair. Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia.

April 4, 9 am-4 pm: Poppy Day at Theodore Payne Fdn. Open House & Plant Sale, 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley; 818-768-1802.

April 11, 8:30 am-5 pm: Wildflower Bus Tour of Antelope Valley Spring flower fields. RSVP at 818-768-1802.

April 11-12, 10 am-4pm: CNPS Wildflower Show & Plant Sale. LA/Santa Monica Chapter event. Michael Landon Center, Malibu Bluffs at Pacific Coast Hwy. & Malibu Canyon Rd.

April 18, 9 am-4 pm: L. A. & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council Conference. At L. A. Dept. of Water & Power (111 N. Hope, free parking). \$10 fee includes lunch. To reserve or for more info call Dorothy Green at 310-270-4151.

May 15-17: Sierra Spring Sojourn. A Bristlecone Chapter event. \$50 for CNPS members; \$85 for all others. Request registration packet by April 15 & return by May 1. SASE to Kathy Duvall, 155 Oceanview Ave., Bishop, CA 93515 or e-mail kduvall@telis.org.



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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.

THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

Fear Falls Away & Other Essays from Hard & Rocky Places

Janice Emily Bowers

University of Arizona Press, 1997, \$16.95 paperback

I couldn't believe my good fortune last fall when I read that botanist Janice Emily Bowers had a new book coming out. Ever since I'd first read *The Mountains Next Door*, her account of the Rincon Mountains east of Tucson, Arizona, I knew that she was a kindred spirit. Her next book, *A Full Life in a Small Place*, confirmed that connection. It included an excellent essay on growing tomatoes and the burst of domesticity (what to do with all those tomatoes) that a full harvest can bring on.

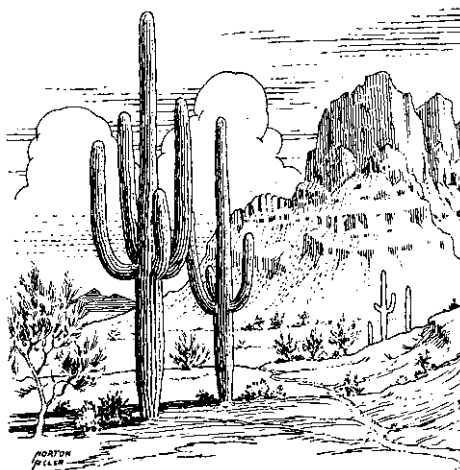
Plunging into *Fear Falls Away*, I discovered that Bowers grew up with our mountains, the San Gabriels. From Upland she moved to the desert of Arizona and had to learn to love mountains all over again. I had the opposite experience, growing up in Phoenix and then moving to Claremont to go to college. For us both mountains define the landscape and our experience. I cannot imagine living without mountains on the horizon, being the horizon, as they are here in Sierra Madre. She says: "In defining my space, mountains turn an infinite universe into a finite one. These are the boundaries in which you must live, they seem to say; this is the place you have made your own."

Fear Fall Away recounts the year which Bowers spent wondering if she'd have to give up the desert mountains she'd come to call home. Her botanist husband Steve was up for tenure at the University of Arizona. Month by month and chapter by chapter, she revisits Southern Arizona mountains that she may not visit again soon. The locales are varied—small hills surrounded by urban sprawl, desert canyons thronged with visitors, high peaks with pine forest. All are "hard and rocky places" that have their special appeal and treasures—plants, birds, insects, streams, views. Her approach to experiencing these places is one that we all might do well to emulate.

This is what I like best: to walk someplace and sit. We should stay in one place more often and let the landscape move through us....My best moments out-of-doors seldom happen when I am questing. They drop over me when I am a quiet receptacle.

As we're out and about this spring enjoying El Nino's floral bounty, let's leave some time for being quiet and letting nature come to us.

—Kathy



BOOKSHELF NOTES

Oops! My computer played a trick last month and cut off the telephone number for Stonecrop Book Catalog. So here it is:

Stonecrop

800-666-9002

And by the way, they carry *Fear Falls Away* (see review at left)

NOW AVAILABLE

Native Gardens for Dry Climates
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NATIVE.NET

www.calphoto.com/wflower.htm

California Wildflower Hotsheet

This is just one page of professional photographer Carol Leigh's website. On it she posts reports of wildflower sightings from around the state. The current listing includes observations from Palm Springs, Death Valley, Anza-Borrego, Mt. Diablo, China Camp SP among others.

Beware that some of her observers call Bermuda Buttercup and Mustard wildflowers—aliens run amok, I'd say. But other reports are full of detailed native

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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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