



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

MARCH & APRIL 1999

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 14, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Rick Fisher.

Mar. 18, 7:30 pm: *The Plants and Birds of New Zealand* by R. T. Hawke.

Apr. 11, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Robert Gardner.

Apr 15, 7:30 pm: *Field Sketching Workshop* by Marianne Wallace.



WELCOME!

New members
Nancy Booth
Gail Ivens
Robert T. Ives
Jason Servatius

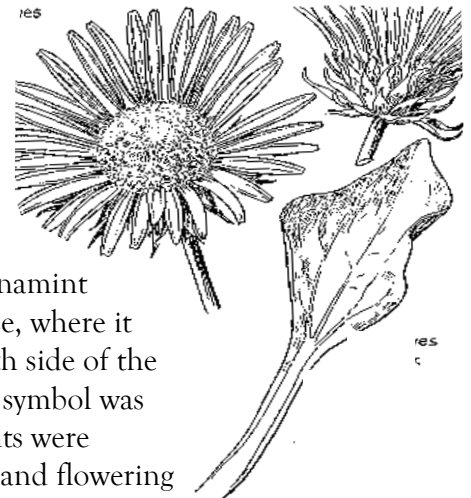
WHY/WHERE THE PANAMINT DAISY?

For those of you who are new (let's say five years or less) members of CNPS, the story of the Society's handsome floristic emblem may be of some interest. And you might set out this Spring to search for this beauty in its rocky desert home in Death Valley National Park. So here's an article by Clifford L. Schmidt, that appeared in the CNPS *Newsletter*, January 1972.

On the western slopes of the Panamint Range, which separates Death Valley from Panamint Valley, grows the stunning symbol of the California Native Plant Society: *Enceliopsis argophylla* var. *grandiflora*. Commonly called the Panamint Daisy, this plant was selected, in 1968, to be the Society's symbol on a membership decal.

This rare, striking endemic of the Sunflower tribe (*Heliantheae*) is apparently restricted to the western side of the Panamint Range. There it is found between 1200 and 4000 feet elevation in slightly alkaline calcareous clay soils.

I have seen and photographed the Panamint Daisy about one mile west of Wildrose, where it grows up the steep gullies on the north side of the road. The color slide from which our symbol was drawn was taken at this site. The plants were blooming profusely in April of 1968, and flowering continued into June. (Ed. note: they bloomed well year too)



last

The typical variety of *Enceliopsis argophylla* is found in Arizona, Utah, southern Nevada, and perhaps also in California. The two varieties may be distinguished by their ray flowers, which are roughly twice as long in the Panamint Daisy. The species has been subject to taxonomic changes by various workers. It has been referred to at least three different genera: first to *Encelia*, then to *Enceliopsis*, then to *Helianthella*, and then again to *Enceliopsis*. The generic name, incidentally, means "habitually similar to *Encelia*."

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GERMPLASM PROJECT

Now is the time to play a key role in native plant seed collecting activities. Several partnering organizations are requesting expert volunteer assistance as part of an extensive Southern California Native Plant Germplasm Project. Some of you may wish to participate as a continuing volunteer; others who are educators may wish to oversee the effort as a student-enlisted assignment/project. You can collect on your routine walks and hikes.

As is increasingly evident, germplasm banks are becoming of essential importance for local native plant restoration and fire recovery programs as well as for future biological resource and research supplies. Ironically, the potential for recovery is growing, but resources are diminishing.

Plant seed needs and more about the inter-agency partnership will be discussed with those responding. Plant Identification expertise is essential. If help is needed in learning more seed collecting skills, techniques and technology, please indicate so in your response.

Along with the seed collected, you will need to document species, location, date of collections, and name of collector with phone/address. As opportunities arise, you may also route collections by mail to the address given.

Volunteer efforts are vital!

For more information, contact:
Dr. Ann Croissant
San Gabriel Mtns. Regional Conservancy
P. O. Box 963
Glendora, CA 91740
626-335-1771 (phone/fax)

CHAPTER EVENTS

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

PROGRAMS

Mar. 18, 7:30 pm: *The Plants and Birds of New Zealand* by R. T. Hawke. New Zealand is a spectacular land full of unusual plants and birds. Although much habitat has been lost due to human activities, many endemic species still exist throughout the islands. New Zealand in its geologic past was once a part of the great supercontinent Gondwanaland. It has now been isolated for millions of years since the break-up of the continent and thus contains a relictual flora and fauna of great antiquity. The North Island is known for its ancient Podocarpaceae forests and its giant stands of *Agathis australis* (Araucariaceae). The South Island has Beech forests whose fossil history also reach way back in geologic time. The Southern Beech (*Nothofagus*) is related to our oaks. Since New Zealand has no native land mammals other than bats, the native flora is especially interdependent on the bird life, particularly as pollinators and seed dispersal agents. New Zealand is most renown for its pelagic bird species and the nocturnal kiwi. Extinction definitely has taken a toll on the land birds, with many species just barely clinging to existence on small outlying islands. However, many native birds still are thriving in native habitat. New Zealand has a fascinating variety of bird fauna from parrots to wattlebirds, honeyeaters to wagtails.

Apr 15, 7:30 pm: *Field Sketching Workshop* by Marianne Wallace. Sometimes we set out on drives or hikes with out botanical reference books. But if you can make a quick sketch of that new plant, you can look it up when you get home or to a library. Marianne will share her skills as a botanical illustrator and encourage us to develop ours. Bring pencils and land lens.

Marianne's latest books as author/illustrator are *America's Deserts, Guide to Plants and Animals* (1996, ages 8 and up) and *America's Mountains, Guide to Plants and Animals* (ages 8 and up, due out in April, 1999). She also contributed illustrations for *Shrubs and Trees of the Southern California Chaparral Region* (by Dole and Rose, Foot-loose Press, 1990) and *Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains* (by Nancy Dale, Capra Press and CNPS, 1986).

OUTINGS

Mar. 14, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Rick Fisher. We've had some rain. How are the plants responding?

Apr 11, Sun., 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Robert Gardner. Spend part of your Easter celebrating Spring at Eaton Canyon. There might even be bunnies.

THE NATIVE BOOKSHELF

Mountain and Rivers Without End
Gary Snyder
Counterpoint, 1996, \$20.00

How long has it been since you've read any poetry? How long since you've read an entire book of poetry? For many of you, I suspect it's been a long, long time. But if you're interested in the natural world—its land forms and weather, its flora and fauna—there are some fine contemporary poets who are in tune with its rhythms and patterns.

I was introduced to the work of Gary Snyder in the late 60's by a college professor, a poet who was his contemporary. Snyder has written 16 books of poetry and prose. His book *Turtle Island* won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1975. He teaches English at U. C. Davis, lives in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and is active in local watershed issues.

In 1956, Snyder began work on what was to become a book-length poem inspired by such diverse sources as Asian art and drama, Native American performance and storytelling, Zen Buddhism, and the landscapes of Japan, California, Alaska, Australia, China, and Taiwan. It's an amazing cycle of poems that makes you long to push away from the desk, walk away from the crowds and renew yourself in the mountains or desert. But two poems, "Night Song of the Los Angeles Basin" and "Walking the New York Bedrock," show that renewal can happen even in a city full of concrete and cars—your senses just have to be properly tuned to hear the soft-voiced owl or to see the newly-green ginkgo leaves.

Earth Verse

Wide enough to keep you looking
Open enough to keep you moving
Dry enough to keep you honest
Prickly enough to make you tough
Green enough to go on living
Old enough to give you dreams

Poetry has a unique way of seeping into your mind—snatches come back to you, bringing insight. Why not read a book of poems?



*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;
Family/Group - \$45; Supporting - \$75; Plant Lover - \$100; Patron - \$250.00; Life - \$1000.*

(Panamint Daisy cont.)

F.V. Coville, the botanist of the well-known Death Valley Expedition of 1891, referred to this species as *Helianthella agrophylla* and commented: "The species is a very striking one, single plants often bearing thirty open antheridia at one time." He collected plants that he referred to this species along the gypsum cliffs in the Vegas Wash of southern Nevada not very far from the Colorado River. I have no personal knowledge whether this was *E. argophylla* var. *grandiflora* or the typical variety, which has a wider range. Coville did, however, collect the Panamint Daisy in the Panamint Range about 150 miles to the west of Vegas Wash. Collections were made at Hall Canyon and at Surprise Canyon, which is about four miles to the south of Hall Canyon in the Panamints. Here, the plants grow near the mouths of the canyons on banks of apparently calcareous clay. These two stations are more than eight miles to the south of the Wildrose station.

In May 1968, the suggestion was made to the Board of Directors that CNPS have a membership decal on the order of the Audubon Society's egret-in-flight. The suggestion was well received, and there was some discussion as to an appropriate species to symbolize CNPS. Many splendid California natives were considered, and the Panamint Daisy was ultimately selected. One of my slides was sent to Joyce Burr, who made the drawing on which the decal design was based. Shortly thereafter, the decals were distributed to the membership.



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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
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