



# SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1999

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sun. Oct. 10, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean

**Thurs. Oct. 21, 7:30 pm:** *It's a Dirty Job: The Watershed Restoration Project* with Elena Layugan

**Sun. Nov. 14, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Eva Morgan

**Thurs. Nov. 18, 7:30 pm:** *Wildlands 2000* with Bill Ritter

**Sun. Dec. 12, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean

## WELCOME! New members:

Richard & Carolyn Angus  
 Alicia Broderick  
 Jesse & Tammy Chang  
 Mary Beth DeHainaut  
 Maria Cristina Halstead  
 Sarah Hamm-Alvarez  
 Wendy Hester  
 Sue McDonough  
 Peggy McLaughlin  
 Roscoe Moss  
 Eric Mulfinger  
 John R. Tobin  
 Nelson Vidal, Jr.

## YOU NEVER KNOW

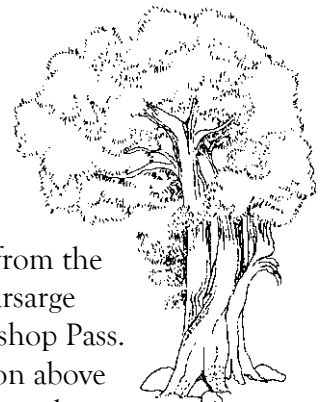
*Kathy LaShure*

with illustrations by member Marianne Wallace from her book for young readers (8 years +) *America's Mountains: Guide to Plants and Animals*, courtesy of the publisher, Fulcrum Publishing

For years I've told people that my motto for life is "You never know." These three words can refer to either the gifts or challenges that come my way and they help me remember that constancy may be comfortable but it is not guaranteed. I've also thought that these words would make a dandy name for an antique shop. Over the years I've learned that the most unlikely-looking stores may harbor the best treasures—from the perfect chair for a particular corner to the last teaspoon in a set of silver flatware to a centuries-old Chinese tea bowl. The art of junking requires looking everywhere. You never know.

The same might be said for experiencing the natural world. There are trails that I've tramped dozens of times (particularly the two routes up Mt. Baden-Powell in the San Gabriels) that have become so familiar and yet, usually I see something new—bighorn sheep, *Cycladenia humilis* just off eastern side of the backbone ridge on a vertiginously steep slope, an stand of *Amelanchier utahensis* at the bend of one switchback, a family of Mountain Quail heading into dense manzanita growth, fantastic thunderclouds towering over the peaks with lightning crashing about us. These sightings and experiences might not be new to everyone but each of us brings a different personal history and store of knowledge to our adventures out of doors. You never know.

I spent Sept. 1-9 based at our house just outside of Bishop. Over that week+ I put 45 High Sierra miles on my boots. We had five splendid day hikes that covered trails in Yosemite, historic Bloody Canyon that drops from the more northerly Mono Pass to Mono Lake, Kearsarge Pass, Gem Lakes in Little Lakes Valley, and Bishop Pass. Last year at this same time the wildflower season above 10,000 feet was peaking with glorious color everywhere.



Cont. on page 3

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Oct. 20 - 24, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

*Fall Festival* at Theodore Payne Fnd. Huge Selection of native plants for sale, free talks, demonstrations, book signings. Call 818-768-1802 or check their newly revamped website at [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org). Remember that members receive a 10% discount.

**Oct. 23, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm**

*Perspectives on Biodiversity*, Southern California Botanists' 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium. Fee, which includes 1-year membership in SCB, is \$25 before Oct. 15 or \$35 at the door. Held at Ruby Gerontology Center, Cal. State Fullerton, 800 N. State College Blvd. Contact Susan Hobbs at 626-303-7715 or [slhobbs@linkonline.net](mailto:slhobbs@linkonline.net).

**Nov. 6 - 7** 21st Annual Plant Sale at

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Nov. 6: Members only sale 8 - 11 am

Public sale 11 am-4 pm

Nov. 7: Public sale 9 am-1 pm

1500 N. College Ave., Claremont

For information call 909-625-8767.

Featuring thousands of Calif. plants,

many propagated from RSABG

collections, and including many

selections of *Heuchera*, salvias (native,

species and cultivars), different varieties

of colorful Pacific Coast hybrid irises.

They will also have gardening tools and

books, wildflower seeds and bulbs. *No*

*admission charge*, but be prepared for

crowds as this is a popular event!

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Julia Rose Knoerr was born to Sharon Green and Alan Knoerr on April 9, 1999. She's their long-awaited first child and a very sweet baby.

## CHAPTER EVENTS

*Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the third Thursday of the month. No meeting in December.*

## PROGRAMS

**Oct. 21, Thurs. 7:30 pm:** *It's a Dirty Job: The Watershed Restoration Project* by Elena Layugan, Conservation Coordinator for Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District.

On a bright and early Saturday morning a number of people have gathered in the Azusa Canyon. The group is diverse with ages ranging from toddlers to seniors and traveling from as far as Long Beach, Riverside and Thousand Oaks. Perhaps acorns will be gathered and planted or native plant seeds collected and stored. What has brought this group together? Is it the beginnings of an environmental lynch mob? Another Woodstock? An anti-squirrel movement?

It's the Watershed Restoration Program: a cooperative partnership between the Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Upper District) and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

Elena will discuss the Watershed Restoration Program, explain the link between the local mountains and our drinking water and give insight to the critical question: why would so many people voluntarily wake up early on a Saturday morning to get their hands dirty???

**Nov. 18, Thurs. 7:30 pm:** *Wildlands 2000 Campaign* by Bill Ritter, Campaign Coordinator.

This slide show and talk will introduce us to the Wildlands 2000 campaign's efforts to protect the last remaining roadless areas in our National Forests, BLM lands, and National Parks by giving those areas wilderness designation, which prevents roads, mining, logging, and off-road vehicle use of the land. Within California we only have potential wilderness areas of approximately 5 to 6 million acres left that qualify for wilderness protection. These PWA's consist of 200 to 300 sites throughout California's federal lands. Some of the most precious areas are in northern California, the Sierra Nevada, and southern California, within an hour or two drive from the LA Basin. By protecting these areas we guarantee wildlife, native plants, and our natural heritage for ourselves and future generations.

## OUTINGS

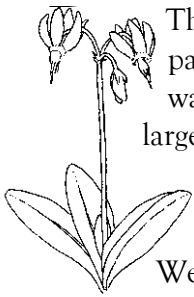
**Oct. 10, Sun., 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean. Is fall arriving early here, as it is elsewhere in the state?

**Nov. 14, Sun., 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Eva Morgan. Will the first rains have arrived, reviving our native plants?

**Dec. 12, Sun., 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean. What changes will cool weather bring?

## You Never Know (cont.)

But this year there were just a few scattered blooms. Instead, we found tawny grasses in the high meadows, boulders were outlined with a stitchery of red bilberry leaves, and most surprisingly some willows and aspens were beginning to turn (both a lighter green & some gold). The colors increased and deepened over the week. Changes were particularly noticeable in the Rock Creek basin. Fall was arriving weeks early. Even some of the cottonwoods in the Owens Valley were losing their green tint. You never know.



The hike we made to Bishop Pass (11,980 feet) was particularly memorable this year—and not just because it wasn't drizzly and cold like last year. On the way up at very large rockface I saw another hiker peering intently into a crack. A female ranger was taking his picture. Their full backpacks lay on the ground. Very curious, I thought.

We continued on to the pass, had lunch, and enjoyed the grand vistas. Then we started back down. About half way down the major switch-backs that lead to the pass, the man I had observed in the morning had stopped to catch his breath. I asked what he had been studying. "Mosses" he replied. Turns out on this trans-Sierra backpack trip he was researching a new flora of California mosses. We chatted as his female companion, whose uniform revealed that she was Park Service employee, arrived and sloughed off her very considerable pack. She jokingly apologized for not asking to see our permits, which of course day hikers don't need. I said that as I am CNPS member, the fact that she was a naturalist was even better.

Then we exchanged names. And to my surprise, the researcher was none other than Jim Shevock. Before I knew it, I'd blurted out "You're famous!" I was talking with a botanical "superstar," one of California's most important botanists. It was like an opera buff meeting Placido Domingo on the street and actually talking about the real world. What a thrill! The rest of the hike went by in a blur and as soon as we returned home I showed my husband the color photo of perky but tiny *Mimulus shevockii* (which, like *Lomatium shevockii*, occurs in the rugged arid eastern crest of the southern Sierra) on page 151 of *California's Wild Gardens*. You never know.

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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; Family/Group - \$45; Supporting - \$75; Plant Lover - \$100; Patron - \$250; Life - \$1000.

## CHAPTER ALERT

Unlike the accompanying piece, *You Never Know*, this notice is considerably harder for me to write. Over the past few years our Chapter's Board has shrunk very noticeably (through death, new babies, career changes, etc.). Most of these people had been with the Chapter for quite some time, some from the beginning. I'm relatively new to the Chapter, having served on the Board for only three years. At this time I'm keeping things afloat pretty much by myself, handling membership, programs and the newsletter. Now, as Vice President, I'm filling in for Rick.

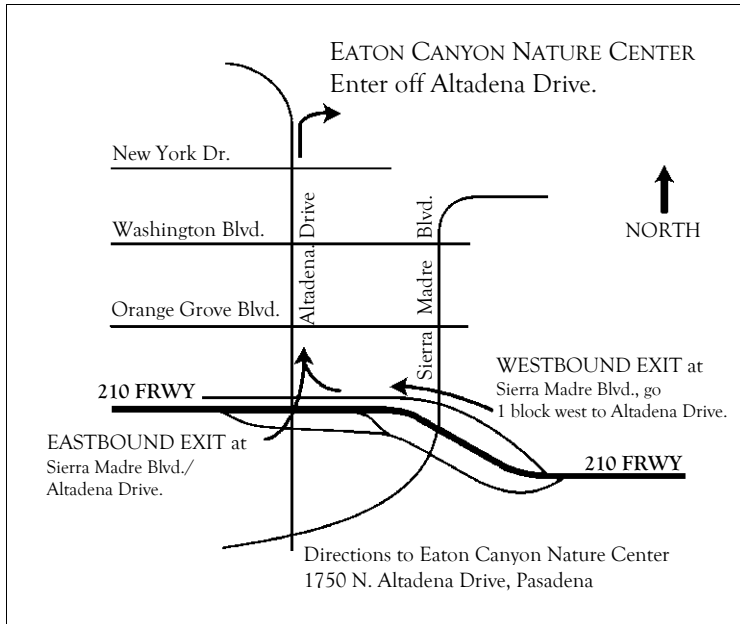
To be honest, I need your help. The Chapter needs your help. I know that most of you have busy lives. And your financial commitment to the organization is significant. But the Chapter needs new volunteers to help with our activities.

Won't some of you think about starting the year 2000 with a pledge to make sure that the San Gabriel Mountains Chapter of the CNPS continues it's work on behalf of our native flora? Thanks.

Money alone cannot educate others about the diversity and glory of the natural world. The personal touch really counts. Each of you can make a difference by volunteering to help the Board, coming to programs and plant walks, telling others about our activities.

I'm available by phone (626-355-7064) or e-mail (encelia@gte.net). Please contact me with your suggestions and concerns.

Kathy LaShure



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- MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:** Gabi McLean, Eva Morgan

**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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**San Gabriel Mountains Chapter**  
 1750 North Altadena Drive  
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