



SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS

CHAPTER OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

OCT., NOV., DEC. 2000

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Sun., Oct. 8, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Eva Morgan

Thurs. Oct. 12, 7 pm: *Board Meeting*

Thurs. Oct. 26, 7:30 pm: *The Beginnings of a Verdugo Mountains Flora* by Valerie Soza

Thurs. Nov. 30, 7:30 pm: *Useful Books and Papers on Plants of Southern California* by Gary Wallace

Sun., Nov. 12, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk*

Sun., Dec. 10, 9:00 am: *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk*

WELCOME! New members

Gina Aguirre
 Janine M. Dolezel
 Barbara Eisenstein
 Sarah Gallup
 Adelina Munoz
 Dr. Melanie Renfrew
 Judith Richmond
 Pam Thomas
 B. Jean Westphal

GROWING NEW LEAVES

Kathy LaShure



After a period of being drought deciduous, our Chapter is busy growing new leaves and possibly even new branches. Early last summer, for personal reasons, long-time member Rick Fisher stepped down as President—thank you, Rick! So in Aug. I called a meeting of the remaining Board members and several members who have been loyal in coming to program meetings for the past year. We’ve now met twice and are eagerly putting our energies into making this Chapter viable again. To do so, we’re making some changes.

- Chapter Program meetings will be on the **fourth Thursday** of the month. The exception this year will be Nov., when we’ll meet on the fifth Thursday. We hope this change will bring more people.
- Program meetings will begin at 7:00 pm with a half hour for socializing and informal plant identification using live material from Eaton Canyon. Then **promptly** at 7:30 we will have a few brief announcements followed by the program. Light refreshments will be served (Gabi McLean will be looking for volunteers to bring cookies).
- Name tags will be provided for anyone who attends a meeting. We want to welcome newcomers, as well as the more seasoned plant lovers. Take a few minutes during our social time to introduce yourself to someone who’s new to you.
- New features will be appearing in the newsletter. Starting in this issue we have “Plant Profile”, “Member Profile” and “Plant Quiz”.

If you consult the back page of the Newsletter, you’ll find the list of members who are actively working to support this Chapter. But we can always use more help and input. In fact, you’ll see that we don’t have a President. But the Board will be meeting on a more regular basis, usually early in the month. The next meeting will be Oct. 12 at the

McLeans’ home in Covina; any member is welcome. Please call or e-mail me for details.



Don’t be afraid to turn over a new leaf!!

MEMBER PROFILE:

Mickey Long

Late in 1971 (following a late 1940s birth outside Chicago, Illinois and, at age 3, convincing his parents to move to California) Mickey took what he thought was to be a short-term, part-time job at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center until finishing college. He has worked for the Los Angeles County Nature Centers ever since. He is currently a Regional Park Superintendent directing the operation of Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area and eight wildflower sanctuaries in the Antelope Valley, providing environmental education and interpretation programs. Staff at Eaton Canyon currently consists of 4 full-time, and several part-time employees and 50-60 volunteers. The training of docent naturalists at the Nature Centers is one of Mickey's more rewarding duties.

Mickey received his Bachelor of Science in Zoology in 1972 from California State University Los Angeles, but, long before that, from age 7 onward, he was collecting insects, snakes, lizards and salamanders in the wild vacant lots of Monterey Park (his Field Notes Journal began in 1965 and continues to present). It was during his last year at Cal State, when he took a Taxonomy of Angiosperms class, that his interest in field botany was truly kindled. He maintains personal field interests in ornithology (bird banding, studying cactus wrens in San Gabriel Valley, former Compiler for local X-mas Bird Count), rare plant distribution and herpetology (declining amphibians).

In 1984, at the urging of Jo Kitz from the Santa Monica Mtns. Chapter of CNPS, he helped found the new San Gabriel Mtns. Chapter which began

CHAPTER EVENTS

Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) usually on the fourth Thursday of the month. Informal plant identification and social time is from 7 to 7:30 pm; programs start promptly at 7:30 pm.

PROGRAMS

Thurs. Oct. 12, 7 pm: Board Meeting at the home of Gabi and Cliff McLean, 17029 Bygrove St., Covina, 626-966-0580

Thurs. Oct. 26, 7:30 pm: *The Beginnings of a Verdugo Mountains Flora* by Valerie Soza, Herbarium Curatorial Assistant at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. The Verdugo Mtns. are an isolated range, an island 10 miles long by 4 miles wide rising to 3100 feet. They are surrounded by the cities of Burbank, Glendale and Los Angeles. With recent interest at RSABG in identifying botanical "black holes" in Southern Calif., the Verdugos warrant floristic attention. There are few collections from this range and most are from the early 20th century. This presentation will highlight the past year's field work, including a report on the 1999 burn areas in both the Verdugos and adjacent San Rafael Hills. A preliminary plant checklist will be distributed.

Thurs., Nov. 30, 7:30 pm: *Useful Books and Papers on Plants of Southern California* by Gary Wallace, botanist with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Gary will be sharing his extensive collection of reference works dating back to the 1800s, including *Flora of Pasadena and Vicinity* by Alfred McClatchie, 1895, *Flora of Southern California* by A. Davidson and G. Moxley, 1923, and Philip Munz' first book, *A Manual of Southern California Botany*, 1935.

OUTINGS

Sun., Oct. 8, 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk with Eva Morgan

Sun., Nov. 12, 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk

Sun., Dec. 10, 9:00 am: Eaton Canyon Plant Walk

SPECIAL EVENTS

Oct. 20-22, 8:30 am—4:30 pm: Fall Festival at Theodore Payne Fdn. Huge selection of native plants and seeds for sale. On Fri. Oct. 20 from 10 am—2 pm Robert Perry will answer your plant questions. Rich Fisher will present "Restoration with Style" at 10 am on Sat. "Butterfly Gardening" by Margaret Huffman is scheduled for Sun. morning at 11 am. Jan Scow will talk about "Hillside Gardening" at 2 pm on Sun. For more information call 818-768-1802.

Nov. 4, 11 am-4 pm & Nov. 5, 9 am-1pm: 22nd Annual Fall Plant Sale at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, featuring thousands of native California plants, many propagated from RSA collections, including many selections of *Heuchera*, *Salvia*, Pacific Coast hybrid irises, Desert Willow and other beautiful garden plants. For more information call 909-625-3157.

PLANT PROFILE:

Senecio douglasii; Shrubby Butterweed

Sunflower Family; *Asteraceae*

This common perennial sunflower with bright yellow flowers blooms into late summer and early fall. It forms a small bushy shrub with alternate, white-wooly leaves which are divided into very narrow lobes. The flowers heads have both disk flowers and about a dozen narrow ½ inch ray flowers. These appear in terminal, loose-branching clusters with conspicuous small bracts at their base.

You'll find Shrubby Butterweed (also known as Creek Senecio) in washes and dry stream beds below 6000 feet, mostly as a component of Coastal Sage Scrub. It occurs from lower California to northern California, including some of the Channel Islands.

A large genus, about 1,000 senecios are found worldwide, with 45 species or varieties occurring in California.

Senecio comes from the Latin *senex* which means "old" and refers to the snowy white bristles of its achenes (seed). *Douglasii* honors David Douglas (1798-1834), the ardent Scottish plant collector who sent more than 500 specimens of California flora to the Royal Horticultural Society.

This species has been reclassified in Jepson as *Senecio flaccidus* var. *douglasii*.

Editor's Note: a special thank you goes out to Chapter member Marianne Wallace who volunteered to contribute drawings for this new feature in our Newsletter.

Do You Know This Family?

Trees, shrubs, or herbs with alternate leaves that are simple or compound, usually with stipules. The flowers are perfect and regular with 5 petals, 5 sepals, and numerous stamens. The fruit can take several forms: follicles, akenes, drupes, pomes. This family has 36 naturally-occurring genera in California (according to Jepson) and includes some very attractive and fragrant species. (Answer appears on page 6, back cover.)



(Continued from page 2)

meeting at the Nature Center. Since 1970 Mickey has also had various levels of activity with the Pasadena Audubon Society, currently serving on the Field Trip Committee.

As an instructor he taught evening and weekend courses in Environmental Biology, Human Ecology and Beginning Ornithology for 4 years during the 1980s, at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. One of the most enjoyable "jobs" he ever held was as a Leader and Naturalist from 1974-88 at annual week-long natural history workshops in the southern Sierra Nevada. He helped compile a plant list of over 400 species for the high mountain Cottonwood Lakes basin from 10,100 to over 14,000 ft.

In addition to numerous popular articles, Mickey has published a dozen technical papers on herpetological, ornithological or botanical themes. He uses half his personal budget and reading time on dues or subscriptions to natural history organizations: CNPS ; Pasadena Audubon Soc.; Southern Calif. Botanists; Western Field Ornithologists; Cooper Ornithological Soc.; North American Bird Banding Assoc.; Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory; Los Angeles County Natural History Museum; Nature Conservancy; Sierra Club.

His hobbies are rather work-related: reading (an incurable bibliophile, buying three books for every one finished!); hiking (more in the early days); camping (ditto), nature study (ongoing); guitar. Mickey, along with teacher-wife Jan and two sons (Ryan 21 and Kevin 16) resides in Temple City.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN HABITAT NETWORK

A fascination with the countless creatures that can inhabit landscapes has motivated Jeffrey A. Caldwell, Horticulturist and Andreas Reimann, University of California Cooperative Extension at UC Davis to propose a California garden habitat network. Their premise is that California's inhabited landscape, at present, is unacceptably and unnecessarily devoid of the delights of her unique flora and fauna. The everyday experience of Nature for Californians could be greatly enhanced with more people making better-informed decisions about their domain. This proposal seeks to serve the many who desire to do so!

To get this network off the ground they have contacted experts with relevant knowledge and experience, whether professionals based in non-profit organizations, government agencies, academia or businesses, or amateur enthusiasts.

These interested parties will help to define specific issues of concern and line up speakers and participants for a proposed symposium to focus on the possibilities for wildlife habitat gardening in California.

The authors also hope to develop a California Garden Habitat Association as integral to the educational campaign to promote habitat gardening. The Association will create and maintain an educational resource center, a website, a newsletter, tours, question and answer sessions, workshops, lectures and design competitions).

For more information contact
J. Caldwell at ecosys@pacbell.net

A. Reimann at [4 \[imann@ucdavis.edu\]\(mailto:imann@ucdavis.edu\).](mailto:jare-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

NATIVE GARDENS: Where Are They?

The California Native Plant Society is looking for gardens throughout the State that provide examples of landscaping with California native plants. Please let us know about any private gardens, commercial landscaping or lesser known public gardens that use California native plants. To be more specific we would like to know:

- the location and exact address of the garden
- the name of the owner(s) and how to contact them (phone number)
- are they by chance a member of CNPS and if so, which Chapter?
- how accessible is the garden (front yard, along road, closed back yard)?
- what is the approximate size of the garden or landscaping (if you know or can guess)?
- is the garden landscaped purely with California natives or are other drought tolerant plants mixed in (if so, briefly describe)?
- if you are acquainted with the owners, it would be nice to know if they would be willing to open their garden for a CNPS garden tour. Whether or not the garden would be suitable for a tour, would they allow us to take pictures?
- if you are suggesting a local public garden and/or school garden, please also note normal opening times and if possible a contact person, who might know about the history and the specifics;
- any comments you may have

Please help the CNPS Horticulture Committee to compile a list of good examples of native plant gardens and give us your feedback. Even if you think that we must already know about the garden you have in mind, drop us a note. We would rather have multiple nominations of a fine garden, than miss it all together. To send us your suggestions please e-mail, write or call me. Thank you for your help,

Angelika Brinkmann-Busi
CNPS Horticulture Committee
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310-519-8164 or fabusi@pacbell.net



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*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.*

VEGGING OUT!!!

Or One Woman's Adventure Learning How to Releve

Lyn McAfee

It was cold and stormy driving up the mountains on a Friday evening in September. The fog was thick, and I was not sure if I would make it up to the Discovery Center at Big Bear Lake where Vegfest was about to begin. Despite the near-zero visibility I managed to avoid disaster while maneuvering around the curves, and made it in time to hear Todd Keeler-Wolf introduce the purpose of the CNPS Vegfest meeting—to train CNPS chapter members in releve methodology.

Like I was *before* Vegfest, you may be clueless about releve (pronounced re-le-vay). Simply put, it is a quick way of classifying and quantifying vegetation in large areas through visual estimation. Releve sampling is a project of the Vegetation Committee of CNPS. Members trained in the method will be able to classify and quantify vegetation in areas that might not otherwise be documented. This will give an important historical record for the diversity of plant cover, particularly in areas slated for development.

At the end of the Friday introductory session, Vegfest attendees were divided into two groups for the next day's fieldwork. Each group was to study forest and shrub communities in the San Bernardino National Forest, working with professional botanists and a SBNF biologist. Heading off to the Tanglewood group campground, we jounced over the washboard dirt roads in the dark with a gale blowing, and awakened Saturday morning to ice on our tents and vehicles. But it turned into a beautiful sunny day.

I was a member of the forest team. At the direction of Todd Keeler-Wolf, co-author of *A Manual of California Vegetation*, we started the releve process. First, we did reconnaissance by walking through the forest area to identify a 'stand'—a basic vegetative unit characterized by its compositional and structural integrity. A stand has a similar combination of species throughout, and has a boundary that distinguishes it from adjacent stands.

After identifying the stand, we began the process of selecting a representative plot to study within the stand. Guidelines have been established to determine plot size depending on community type. The shape of the plot can vary. Forest community plots are standardized at 1000 square meters, and our team set up a 50 by 20 meter plot within a stand of Jeffrey Pine with a sage understory.

We then started recording data about the vegetation in the plot using forms supplied by CNPS. The location of the plot was documented, and all species within the plot were identified and listed. Vegetation was described and categorized according to the releve protocol. When the data collection was complete, the forest and shrub teams traded plots to get a sense of the releve method applied to a different type of plant community. We wrapped up with a

discussion of our adventures in the field and various problems encountered along the way. The day ended with a group dining experience in town, and later a campfire singalong.

On Sunday, we Vegfesters applied the method learned the day before. Five groups used the releve methodology to sample vegetation in areas defined by the forest biologist. Data collected will be used to evaluate and monitor vegetation in the forest.

I found the releve training at Vegfest to be valuable, interesting—and fun. It was time well spent and I contemplate future participation in this CNPS program to classify and map large areas of California vegetation.

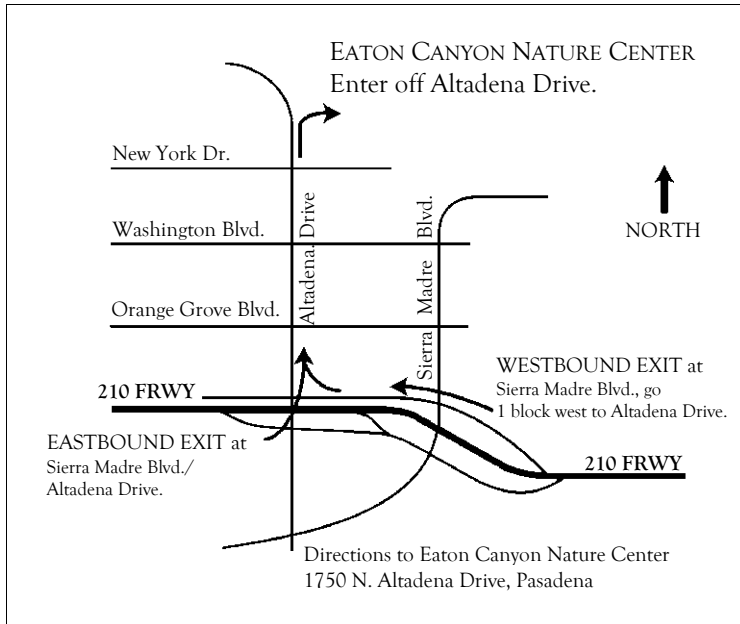
Author's disclaimer: My description of the releve training is that of a lay member of CNPS, not a professional botanist. For definitive information, check out the CNPS web site: www.cnps.org and click on Vegetation, then Vegetation Sampling Project & Protocols. If you're interested in future releve projects in the San Gabriels, please contact me by email – LynMcAfee@aol.com, or by phone – (626)359-



NATIVE BOOKSHELF

Better Basics for the Home: Simple Solutions for Less Toxic Living
by Annie Berthold-Bond
Three Rivers Press, \$18.00

If you want to be a better steward of the natural world, you need to realize that the bathroom cleanser you choose can have a significant ecological impact. In fact, nearly all the chemicals that Americans use to rid our homes of pests, lighten our clothes, clean our kitchens and brighten our lives take a toll. Here are 868 practical recipes for nontoxic substitutes for supermarket supplies. This book would make a wonderful holiday gift.



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And the answer is: **Rosaceae**

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 conserve them and their natural habitats, through education, science, horticulture & advocacy. 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
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