



# THE PAINTBRUSH

MARCH—APRIL 2002 NEWSLETTER

SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER  
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Sat., March 9, 9:30 am:** *Behind the Shrubbery at Rancho Santa Ana Bot. Grdn.*  
Field trip led by Bart O'Brien

**Sun., March 10, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Jane Strong

**Thurs. March 21, 6:30 pm:** *Chapter Board Meeting* at Eaton Canyon NC

**Thurs., March 28, 7:30 pm:** *The Diversity of Coastal Sage Scrub Communities* by Kristine Waldorf

**April ??? Exact date & time TBA:**  
*San Dimas Experimental Forest field trip*  
with Cliff & Gabi McLean.

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

**Thurs., April 25, 7:30 pm:** *New Age Desert Conservation: An Audio-Video Extravaganza* by Steve Hartman.

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

## All For One & One For All:

### The New CNPS

By Kathy LaShure

If you're like me, you belong to several conservation organizations and find there just isn't time to read all mailings they send. So you might not be aware that *this* organization has undergone a restructuring to make it more responsive to the needs of both the plant world and the people world (i.e., CNPS members and volunteers). This change was the result of months of work by dedicated paid and volunteer staff. Here's what we now look like:

- Elected BOARD of Directors; 12 members; develop strategic plan and ensure its implementation; oversee financial resources; develop leadership.
- Chapter COUNCIL; 32 delegates; elects and evaluates Board; sets mission; establishes native plant policies; maintains relations throughout CNPS.
- STAFF (inc. volunteers); implements programs; presents issues and program information to Board and Chapter Council.

Within this structure there are many varied opportunities for volunteers to help out, some at the State level, some at the Chapter level, some at both levels: conservation; plant science; vegetation; forest, desert and wetlands issues; legislation; education; horticulture and school gardens; photography; grants and fund raising; fiduciary responsibilities; publications and poster sales. And then there are the "nuts and bolts" jobs of running a Chapter: programs and speakers; field trips; fund raising; newsletter.

On Feb. 2, 2002 CNPS held its first-ever SoCal Regional meeting in Claremont. It was a fantastic opportunity for Chapters to hear first-hand about the organizational restructure and what all the various committees and programs do to support our native flora. Our Chapter was well represented with 12 members in attendance. After the major presentations, there were break-out sessions for specific work areas. This gave us a chance to network with members of other Chapters who are tackling similar issues. Following a buffet dinner, those of us who remained for the short evening session shared our experiences in recruiting new members and getting them involved.

*Continued on page 2*

Continued from page 1

Here's a sample (in their own words) of several members experiences in the break-out sessions.

■ **Conservation** (Lyn McAfee) Discussion focused on communication and litigation. Participants tossed out ideas of ways for chapters in SoCal to network and communicate with each other, particularly regarding active and proposed legal action to protect listed species. Also stressed was the need to form coalitions with other environmental organizations to share costs and ideas.

■ **Plant Sciences** (Jane Strong) *Rare Plant Monitoring* locates rare plants in each chapter's area, recording the changes in numbers. "Rare" has different definitions. This might be done with a field trip once each year to the same place to look a listed plant and how it is doing. *Local Flora Committee* locates and describes and protects local plant communities (not necessarily rare). There are unusual plant communities in the San Gabriels where many plants reach their southernmost or uppermost distribution limit or there is a unique collection of rare species. Our Chapter might study these. *Vegetation Mapping* (see separate article on Page 4). *Listing Packages* are for those who like to work in libraries and herbariums. Volunteers interested in writing petitions to have plants listed under the California Endangered Species Act should contact David Tibor at 916/324-3816 or dtibor@cnps.org.

■ **Newsletters** (yours truly) Bulk Mail is cheaper for a reason: slow service that we, the customer, cannot speed up in any way. The editors enjoyed sharing tips on using desktop publishing software.

## CHAPTER EVENTS

### CHAPTER BOARD MEETING

**Thurs. March 21, 6:30 pm:** If you do not currently serve on the Board but would like to attend please contact President Lyn McAfee at 626-359-5278 or LynMcAfee@aol.com.

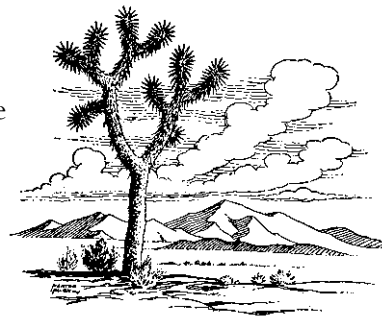
*Meetings are held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center (map on back cover) on the fourth Thursday of the month. Informal plant identification and social time from 7:00 to 7:30 pm; programs start promptly at 7:30 pm.*

### PROGRAMS

**Thurs., March 28, 7:30 pm:** *The Diversity of Coastal Sage Scrub Plant Communities: Implications for Conservation and Management* presented by Kristine Waldorf, Graduate Student at CSU Fullerton. Kris will detail the 5 major recognized sub-associations, the variation found within these sub-associations, and the ecological parameters determining community composition within these sub-associations, as well as the current status of the Coastal Sage Scrub community. She will then give a brief summary of her thesis, which explores the effect of habitat fragmentation on CSS communities. Fragmentation is a hot topic in the world of conservation and ecology. Few studies, however, have focused on the impacts of this sort of disturbance on local plant communities.

**Thurs., April 25, 7:30 pm:** *New Age Desert Conservation: An Audio-Video Extravaganza* presented by Steve Hartman.

While leading a "virtual" field trip across the southern California desert, Steve Hartman, CNPS Desert Conservation Chair, will discuss conservation issues while showing slides of his favorite desert locales. Find out why CNPS-ers are pulling weeds in "Native Canyon" at Joshua Tree National Park, why rare plants have received so much attention on the Algodones Dunes in Imperial County, and why desert plant communities have been the focus of intensive sampling over the past five years. Learn how CNPS has influenced the major public lands planning efforts now underway. Along with many beautiful and interesting slides, Steve has created a soundtrack of desert bird sounds played in "surround-sound" to recreate the sensation of being in the desert.

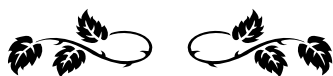


### OUTINGS

**Sat., March 9, 9:30 am:** *Behind the Shrubbery at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden.* Join Bart O'Brien, RSA's lively and information Director of Horticulture, for this expert's tour of our premier local native plant garden. This is a joint trip with the Orange County Chapter.

**Sun., March 10, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Jane Strong.

OUTINGS continued on Page 3



## PLANT PROFILE:

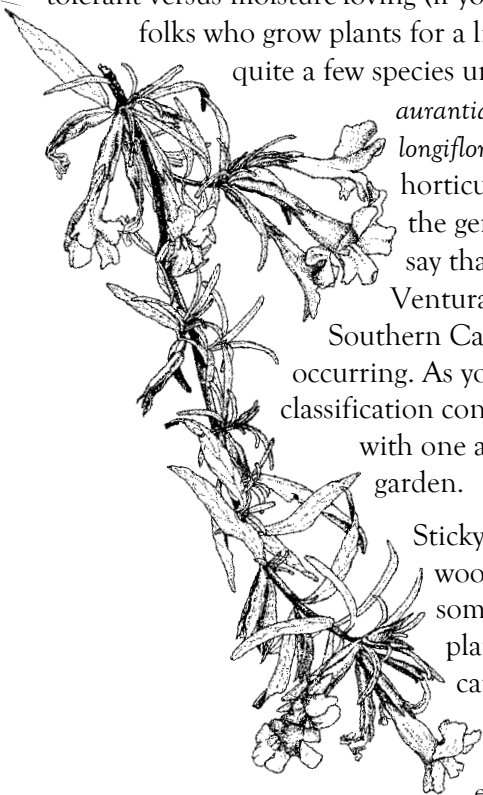
### *Mimulus aurantiacus*, Sticky Monkeyflower

Scrophulariaceae; Figwort Family

Text by Kathy LaShure, Illustration by Marianne Wallace

Let me introduce you to a friend, a friend of Fuschia-flowered Gooseberry (the profiled plant in our last issue) that is: Sticky Monkeyflower. And hopefully this cheery flower will become one of your floristic friends too.

Now, depending on who you're talking to (or reading from), you'll get a variety of descriptions of this plant. It's a question of lumpers versus splitters (if you're looking at floras, those big heavy books) or drought-tolerant versus moisture-loving (if you're asking an horticulturist, the folks who grow plants for a living). The *Jepson Manual* clumps quite a few species under the moniker of *Mimulus aurantiacus* (examples: *M. longiflorus*, *M. longiflorus* var., *M. puniceus*; all of which an horticulturist might list separately under the genus *Diplacus*). Taxonomists used to say that *M. aurantiacus* occurs north of Ventura County and *M. longiflorus* occurs in Southern California with intermediate forms also occurring. As you might suspect, with all this classification confusion, the plants happily hybridize with one another, both in the wild and in the garden.



Sticky Monkeyflower is sort of like a half-woody perennial and sort of like a shrub; sometimes it's called a sub-shrub. The plants grow upright with many stems carrying shiny, sticky, deeply-veined leaves that vary from broad to narrow and have slightly rolled edges. While the plants are drought

tolerant, under severe summer drought older leaves may fall. The funnel-shaped 1½ - 2" flowers (resembling a monkey's face) are born in small clusters at the ends of stems. They are large and showy with flared throats and 2-lipped petals. You can tell that bees visit the flowers by the stripes on the lower lip that serve as nectar guides. Under the *Jepson* classification flower color can vary from white to buff, yellow, orange, or red.

And what a great garden buddy Sticky Monkeyflower is! It is not fussy about soil though it likes to be fairly dry through the summer. It grows to be 2' to 6' tall depending on the particular form. It flowers for months and will be visited by hummingbirds (red and orange forms particularly). If you choose to give it a little extra summer water to stop leaf-drop, remember that this practice may shorten the life of the plant. With its propensity for cross-fertilization, if you plant several different colors, you may get new plants with new colors—rather fun and exciting. Sticky Monkeyflower can be planted with smaller salvias, penstemons, buckwheats, or bush sunflowers to make a bright spot in your garden. Do make its cheerful acquaintance, no matter whether you call it *Mimulus* or *Diplacus*.

## OUTINGS (cont.)

**April ??? Exact date & time TBA** (notification by e-mail or phone): *San Dimas Experimental Forest* with Cliff & Gabi McLean. The San Dimas Experimental Forest is a protected field laboratory under the joint management of Pacific Southwest Research Station and the Angeles National Forest, for studies of hydrology, fire, and other topics relating to the ecology of chaparral and related ecosystems. It is located in the San Gabriel Mountains, north of Glendora, covering 17,163 acres. The SDEF is a Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program, and it contains the 1,360 acre Fern Canyon Research Natural Area. As this facility is closed to the general public, this will be a very special trip. *To be notified of trip details by phone, please call Cliff at 626-966-0580. To be added to the Chapter e-mail list, send a message to cliff.mclean@worldnet.att.net*

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

**Sun., May 12, 9:00 am:** *Eaton Canyon Plant Walk* with Gabi & Cliff McLean. Take the mother in your life out to enjoy Mother Nature!

**Sat. May 25, 10 am-3 pm:** *Sulphur Springs, San Gabriel Mountains* with Jane Strong. We'll be exploring this ecotone where the high desert meets the high mountains. There are several different moist habitats, each with their own assemblage of plants. This area also sports three different kinds of monardellas. Mountain lion and bear have been sighted here—lions and tigers and bears, oh my! But it should be a great place for plant watching! Directions in next newsletter.

## CNPS Vegetation Mapping Sessions

On the State level CNPS is working to develop, promote, and maintain a uniform vegetation classification that will be adopted by private, state, and federal resource agencies with jurisdiction over land management. Julie Evens oversees the Vegetation Program which has developed mapping protocols that have been used to inventory millions of acres of California vegetation in areas such as Anza Borrego SP, Yosemite, Sequoia & Kings Canyon, Joshua Tree, Death Valley NPs, as well smaller local projects throughout the State.

The Vegetation Program has also targeted several of the state's rarest vegetation communities for sampling, including Southern Maritime Chaparral, Riversidean Alluvial Fan Sage Scrub, and some forms of southern Coastal Sage Scrub.

These vegetation mapping projects need additional volunteer help. There will be several training opportunities in Southern California in the coming months. Some of our Board members will be participating. If you'd like to help, save one of the following dates:

- Sat.- Sun. March 16-17, western San Dieguito River watershed
- Fri.- Sat. April 12-13, central San Dieguito River watershed
- Sat.- Sun. April 27-28, Otay Mtn.
- Thurs-Sun. May 2-5 (tentative) Riverside/San Bernardino location TBA

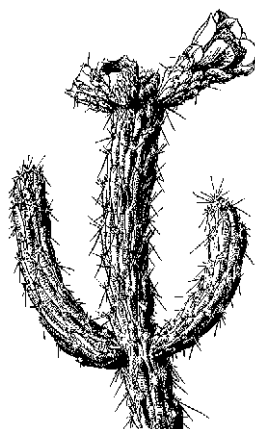
For more details on these training events, the mapping protocol, and the work of the CNPS Vegetation Program, consult the State website at [www.cnps.org/vegetation](http://www.cnps.org/vegetation).

## The Prickly Fruits of Navot: From Pear to Cholla

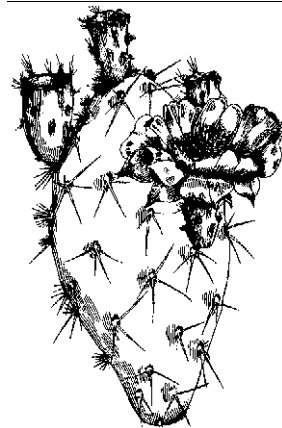
By Mark F. Acuña, Gabrieleno-Tongva

Slowly making their way through winter, the *Navot* (Cacti) of the world of the Tongva are storing their energy to burst forth in all their yellow and red blossoms from March to June. These wonderful plants provided food, medicine, and a blaze of color in sandy, gravelly places from alluvial fans spreading out below the great mountain passes of *Hidaukpa* (the San Gabriels) to sea level Chaparral and coastal plains. The entire spectrum of *Navot* ranged from compact "prickly pears" to multi-branched "cholla". All species presented the difficult work of gathering these spiny foods and the de-spining in order to prepare them for food or medicine.

Starting in March, different species of *Navot* would begin to blossom. The fruits were gathered in early Spring and rolled along the ground to remove the spines. The fruits were eaten both cooked and raw. The juicy red to purple pulp of the fruit made a delicious treat. The flower seeds were gathered and pounded into a mush and small cuttings of the pads were boiled and mixed with other foods such as fowl or venison. The pads were also cut into small strips and eaten with greens.



*Opuntia parryi*  
Valley Cholla  
from Philip A. Munz'  
*A Flora of Southern California*



*Opuntia littoralis*,  
Coastal Prickly Pear  
from Philip A. Munz'  
*A Flora of Southern California*

The pads of all the species of *Navot* were cut into small plugs or blocks. These plugs would be inserted into deep wounds to help in the healing process. Blocks of *Navot* would be applied to wounds, cuts, burns, and scratches; the glutinous material would be spread over the wounds and the inflamed areas.

For the courageous, the spines were collected and used for ear-piercing and sometimes for tattooing.

The sandy, gravelly world of the *Navot* would explode in deep vibrant colors covering vast areas of the Los Angeles basin, a spring event that cheered the eyes and hearts of the Tongva coming out of the dark rainy months of winter. Even today, the foothill hiker who comes across a patch of blooming *Navot* feels that same enchantment.

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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.

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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; Plant Lover - \$100; Patron - \$250.00; Life - \$1000.

## NATIVE BOOKSHELF

### In the Bear's House

by N. Scott Momaday  
St. Martin's Press, 1999  
Reviewed by Kathy LaShure

One of the things that makes moving to a new community worthwhile is exploring its library. So when we moved to Whittier in June 2000 and the boxes were mostly unpacked I headed down the hill to our library. My first visit was disappointing, perhaps because I didn't take the time to really explore the stacks. But now I come home with armloads of books.

On one of my recent visits I discovered a powerful book by the author of *House Made of Dawn*. N. Scott Momaday is Kiowa and his personal history is intricately tied to Bear's spirit. *In the Bear's House* is the result of Momaday's life-long quest of Bear, template of the wilderness for the Kiowa people.

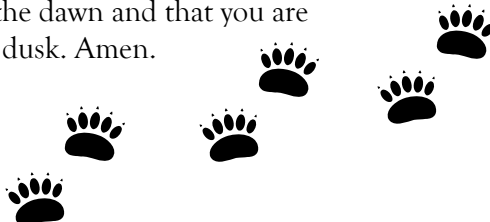
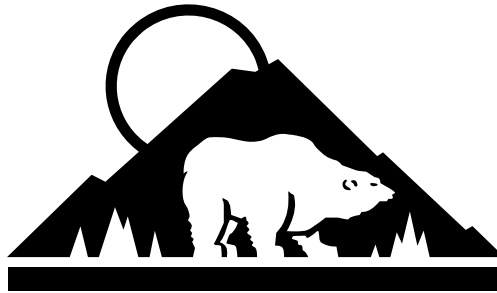
The first section of the book presents a dialogue between *Urset*, the original Bear, and his creator *Yahweh*. A selection of Bear poems, written over the past 25 years, follows. And the book concludes with a riveting story, "The Bear Hunt." Throughout the book are evocative color and black-and-white images of Bear created by Momaday.

I found "The Bear-God Dialogues" to be particularly fascinating as they reveal the connection between human thought and the beauty and spirituality of the natural world. *Urset* and *Yahweh* probe the troubling consolation of language, the wonder of prayer, and the grace of storytelling. These eight conversations with their direct question-and-response setting bear reading again and again.

In the Dialogues *Urset* asks *Yahweh* to make a prayer just for him and the response comes:

I pray that you are kept safe throughout this day, that you live as wholly as you can, that you see things that you have not seen before and that more of them are beautiful than not, more of them delightful than not. I pray that you hold easily in your hands the balance of the earth and sky, that you laugh and cry, know freedom and restraint, some joy and some sorrow, pleasure and pain, much of life and a little of death. I pray that you are grateful for the gift of your being, and I pray that you celebrate your life in the proper way, with grace and humility, wonder and contentment, in the strong, deep current of your spirit's voice. I pray that you are happily in love in the dawn and that you are more deeply in love in the dusk. Amen.

A wonderful blessing for us all.



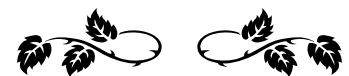
## NATIVE.NET

If you'd like to get a preview of our April outing to the San Dimas Experimental Forest here's the web address: [www.rfl.psw.fs.fed.us/prefire/sdefhtml](http://www.rfl.psw.fs.fed.us/prefire/sdefhtml). This site describes the site and includes maps, photos, flora & fauna lists, weather data, and research projects.

If you're hoping to see some wildflowers blooming locally this spring, I suggest you check out Jane Strong's web page "Wildflower Locations in the San Gabriel Mountains": [tchester.org/sgm/conditions/blooms/wildflower\\_locations\\_sgm.html](http://tchester.org/sgm/conditions/blooms/wildflower_locations_sgm.html). It is part of the larger web project on the San Gabriels that she and Tom Chester have put together.

Here are Jane's observations of current conditions that might affect local flora.

- Annual flowers like popcorn flower and suncups are blooming early and on shorter stems. Shrubs like gooseberries, currants, manzanita and ceanothus on time and in good health. The rains helped them I think.
- The San Gabriel Front Range got a lot of rain in a big storm, about 3-4 inches. Should be good. The rest of the wildflower world is in bad shape, though. Very dry. Late February/early March rains might help the



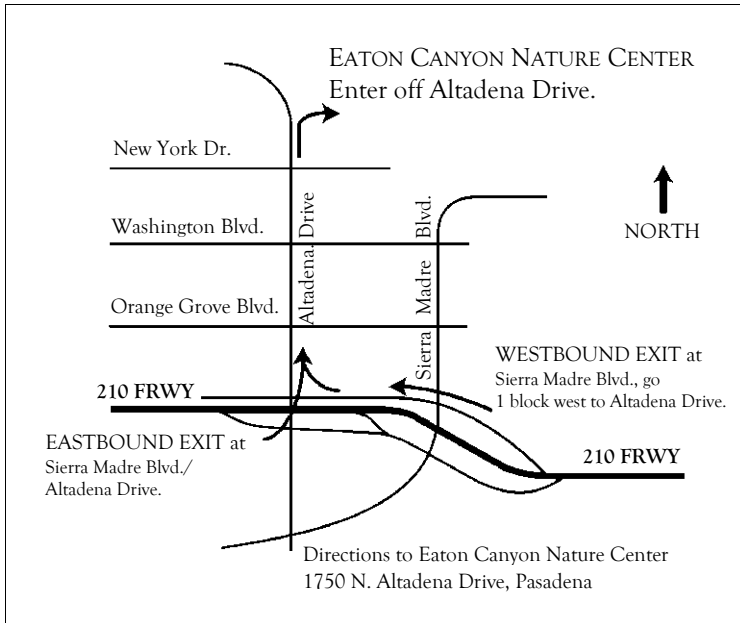
**WELCOME! New member**  
Jeanette Duffels

And thanks to all renewing members!

If you are renewing, please consider doing so at the next highest level.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS CHAPTER**  
**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

**PRESIDENT:** Lyn McAfee  
626-359-5278 or LynMcAfee@aol.com  
**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Cliff McLean  
626-966-0580 or cliff.mclean@worldnet.att.net  
**SECRETARY:** Steve Fischer  
323-254-0690 or habitathome@msn.com  
**TREASURER:** Virginia Iser, 626-573-0390  
**PROGRAMS:** Gary Wallace & Mickey Long, 626-398-5420  
gdwallace@earthlink.net or longm@co.la.ca.us  
**NEWSLETTER:** Kathy LaShure  
562-693-5717 or encelia@gte.net  
**MEMBERSHIP:** Kathy LaShure  
562-693-5717 or encelia@gte.net  
**PUBLIC INFORMATION:** Lyn McAfee  
626-359-5278 or LynMcAfee@aol.com  
**MEMBER SERVICES:** Gabi & Cliff McLean  
626-966-0580 or gabi.mclean@worldnet.att.net  
**PLANT WALKS:** Eva Morgan, 626-284-0029  
**FIELD TRIPS:** Harry Spilman  
626-799-9486 or nochalkbets@juno.com  
**CONSERVATION:** Rick Fisher  
626-335-2534 or toyond@earthlink.net  
**RARE PLANTS:** Mickey Long  
626-398-5420 or longm@co.la.ca.us



**Website:** <http://cnps-sgm.org>

**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**  
**San Gabriel Mountains Chapter**  
**1750 North Altadena Drive**  
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**March 2002 Issue**