Saturday

Leadership Development-Lauren Brown

- There are currently 23 standing committees doing work for the State. Most are populated by volunteers, and some could use more members. A list of committees was passed around to see if anyone in the room wanted to join. Any member can be on a committee, although some committees are closed. Anyone interested in the State committees can contact me, and I will give you a list of the open committees.

New Delegate indoctrination

- Jim Bishop gave an overview and context of the Chapter Council (CC) since its inception, and told us what the roles of the CC are. Here is a synopsis of his PowerPoint slide show:

  Governance Responsibilities of the CC
  - Elect Board of Directors and review their work
  - Establish strategic direction, Vision Mission, Goals
  - Establish policies that guide the program work
  - Maintain strong relations throughout CNPS
  - Annually evaluate the Board with respect to the Strategic Plan

Fulfilling our Roles as the CC

- Stay informed
- Provide direction
- Support each other
- Cooperate, appreciate, respect

- Gerald Tomboc talked about welcoming new delegates to the CC meetings. He stresses 4 steps:
  1. Identify the new delegate
  2. Send a one-page primer which outlines who attends and what goes on in the meetings along with other informational sources
  3. Follow up with a personal contact from the State Chapter Support committee
  4. Meet the new delegate to answer any questions, and introduce them to others.

- New delegates should be made known to the State as soon as possible.

Code of Conduct Lauren Brown

- Lauren proposed a draft code of conduct to be included in the delegate’s primer. This code would apply to all current delegates as well. The draft is as follows:
  - Respect one another’s experience, viewpoints, and right to speak. It is our duty to participate honestly and fully.
  - Listen and suspend disbelief
  - Trust each other
  - No side conversations
  - Show up and start on time
  - Be prepared for the meeting by reading all minutes and appropriate materials
  - Have fun

This is just a draft; anyone can suggest other points or refinements.

California Botanical Society-Mike Vasey

We had a presentation from the past president of the California Botanical Society which publishes the Madrono botanical journal. They are preparing a centennial celebration which will occur on September 9th.
2013. He gave a brief history of the Society including short biographies of the early botanists important in the State including Alice Eastwood, Willis Jepson, E.L. Greene, Leroy Abrams, and Marcus Jones. They would like to partner with CNPS on a number of offerings to the public including field excursions (called a “phytojog”) to Mount Tamalpais and Mount Diablo, and a graduate student symposium. They are open to any other ideas as well. They are also interested in joining with CNPS to build a certification program for botanists.

2012 Conservation Conference - Vince Sheidt
Vince gave us a rundown of the statistics from January’s Conservation Conference. A survey of participants was taken shortly after the conference; there was a 50% return of the questionnaire. Here are a few numbers from the conference and questionnaire:
- 314 people attended the workshops
- 213 registered participants (less than the 2009 conference)
- 200 people attended the public day
- 1000 people attended overall, including volunteers
- 150 students participated; 86 were sponsored
- there were 680 volunteers
- 202 presenters
- 52 posters
- 30+ speakers on public day
- $11,000 worth of sales at the table, with a profit of $5000
- the silent auction brought $10,747
- the raffle brought $1785
- 28% of the attendees were private consultants
- 26% came from conservation organizations
- 27% were agency people
- 18% were amateur botanists
- 65% of attendants said the content and times were about right
- 76% were current CNPS members
- altogether $20,000 was made for the Conservation campaign
The Conference ended up in the black

New Executive Director - Nancy Morin
The recruitment committee’s schedule for finding an Executive Director was delineated:
- Agree on a process and schedule
- Gather thoughts/suggestions from CNPS members, staff, and sister institutions
- Develop and approve position description and announcement
- Circulate the announcement
Reviewing of the applications will begin on March 20, but applications may still be accepted beyond that date.
Some qualities that will be looked for are as follows:
- Ability to form strong relationships with other organizations as well as within the organization
- Strong fundraising ability
- Ability to understand the topics-scientific background
- Be passionate about the mission
- Good organizational ability, strong non-profit administration skills
- Solution oriented
- Sense of humor
- Effective and compelling representative
Of course each applicant will be good in some areas and not so much in others. It sounds like we are interviewing for the president of the United States. The announcement went out last Friday.

Board of Director’s Report-Steve Hartman
Steve related on the finances of CNPS that we have shortfalls in funding our programs. He asked if we want to use our bequest moneys to fund the programs, which would only cover them for 2 years. We can’t count on more bequests, and CNPS doesn’t generate enough money to pay for everything. Sales alone lose $6600 per year. We discussed whether the State should ask the Chapters to help pay for some State programs, or what other funding sources we might pursue. As it is, the Chapters will be asked to donate to the Statewide Conservation Program, and we hope to raise $10,000.
- The CC is asking the Board to see the Board’s agenda and budget in advance of the CC meeting for review so the CC will be better prepared for the discussion.

Fellowship Awards-Lauren Brown
Two members of the Chapter Council were made Fellows of the California Native Plant Society. The presentation was made by the Lauren Brown of the Fellows committee. Those new Fellows are: Jim Bishop of Mount Lassen Chapter and Dave Chipping of the San Luis Obispo Chapter. Both were well deserved.

Membership Breakout Session-Mary Francis Kelley-Poh and Arvind Kumar
The Membership Committee wants to send out a survey to the membership and ask them for ideas on what they would like to see CNPS focus on. It will be distributed using Survey Monkey a free web-based tool that will go out to all members who have given the State their email addresses.

Horticulture Breakout Session-Laura Camp
The Horticulture Committee is still encouraging Chapters to put on a Horticulture Symposium. Those who have done it said it was a great success.
- Laura is asking for volunteers for the e-newsletter, to revamp the website, help with the program statement and goals, the database of plants used in landscaping, and to prepare a statement for a grant proposal.
- The e-newsletter is also looking for articles. They should be 800-1500 words long, and be useful information for a wide variety of gardens.
- Anyone interested contact me or Laura Camp of the Orange County Chapter.

Invasive Plant Presentation-Andrea Adams-Morden
Andrea talked to us about biological control program concerning Cape Ivy. This invasive plant currently impacts hundreds of acres of coastal scrub lands. Especially hard hit are riparian areas. The biological control program is ready to release an insect that helps control the ivy, and it is set to be released in cages in one area. There are 3 locations, north, central, and south, that are identified in the State for eventual test releases. The Federal Farm Bill is being cut by 10%. They could cut 10% across the board, or they could eliminate the biological weed program altogether. Call or write your Congressperson and tell them you want to keep the weed program if you are interested in this issue.

Sunday
General Discussion
- There was a discussion about insurance this morning. It seems that if a Chapter has a booth at an event that is not sponsored by another entity, but is simply a group of independent booth holders, and if that event will have over 500 people passing through during the day, we need to have a piece of paper from the state showing our extra insurance coverage. They mentioned this might apply if we had a booth at a farmer’s market, but would not, for example, apply to our participation in the Farm City day last year. Just for general information, CNPS’ insurance coverage costs about $23,000 per year.
- We have about 3000 “friends” on our CNPS Facebook page.
-Because of the lack of rain this year the wildflowers may not be great, so it was suggested we might focus on trees and shrubs, and shrubs and pollinator interactions during Native Plant Week, the 3rd week of April.
-Rack cards are available from last year for advertising Native Plant week.

Conservation - Greg Suba
The September CC meeting is typically the Conservation meeting. There will be a discussion and presentations about how various NCCP (Natural Community Conservation Planning) plans are being developed in different areas of the State, and perhaps some about HCP's (Habitat Conservation Plan) as well. Topics will include:
- How natural communities are defined in each plan
- What is the public's perception
- Might there be unintended consequences
- What are the problems with implementation
- The dangers of going from the planning phase to implementation phase without falling apart

- Each delegate was given a few minutes to mention the conservation problems and issues their chapters were working on. Below are some of the themes mentioned:
- The State doesn't want to fund the Williamson Act (preserves agriculture land in return for tax break), so some counties are trying to retire Williamson lands.
- Off leash dog walkers are a large, vocal lobby in some urban areas, and are making it hard to protect some rare plant populations in parks from trampling.
- There was a push for building shaded fuel breaks in areas of the forest and around homes in rural areas, but now the money is gone for maintenance, and they may become more fire-prone than they originally were. (Think Quincy Library Group in our area).
- CNPS and other conservation organizations have been pushing to build solar and wind electric generation farms on degraded agricultural lands rather than pristine desert or public lands. This idea of development on degraded land is being used by proposed developments of all kinds designating any land that has had any grazing on it as degraded.
- San Diego is currently working on a management plan for vernal pool property.
- When landfills are retired, there needs to be some regulation regarding how thick the soil layer over the landfill should be, and Chapters need to push for using native plants to vegetate those sites in their areas.
- Some Chapters that have Serpentine soils in their areas are discussing ways to limit the nitrogen fertilization of those soils by blown-in car exhaust. The Serpentine soils are naturally nitrogen limited, and when given nitrogen will grow invasive grasses and other non-endemic plants to the detriment of the endemic species.