The Chapter Council heard from the new Executive Director Dan Gluesenkamp. He spoke briefly at the beginning of the session saying one of his top priorities will be keeping and raising the membership. Other priorities include making sure all chapters know what the other chapters are doing, making sure people understand and participate in plant conservation, and he wants to visit all the chapter boards.

Laura Camp gave a presentation about the conservation campaign written about in the previous delegate’s report. There has been a yearlong effort to raise $100,000 by the end of the year. California’s flora is threatened more than ever from invasive exotics and development. So far the state has received $65,602. Chapters have contributed $13,000. There have also been personal donations.
What the chapters can do:
Endorse the campaign in their publicity
Talk about it at chapter events and programs
Send emails to members and distribution lists
Discuss it in the newsletters
Find a challenge gift that will match contributions by individuals

Todd Keeler-Wolf gave a commemorative slide show and talk about John Sawyer who recently passed away. He was involved with the vegetation program from its inception. A 1966 Humboldt State graduate, he was a professor for 26 years. He joined the CNPS movement in the 1970s adding greatly to the rare plant list. He was the author of the “miracle mile”, a square mile area that contained 17 species of conifer in the Trinity Mountains. He was the expert on Rhamnaceae in the Jepson Manual. A memorial picnic will be held in his honor September 22nd in Arcata.

Greg Suba gave an overview of the day’s presentations. Saturday’s focus was on NCCP (Natural Community Conservation Program). The goal of the NCCP is to provide protection to named species by establishing reserves giving them room to remain viable and to move in response to climate change.

Vern Goehring, our legislative advocate was the first to speak. He gave the political history saying CNPS has been involved from the beginning. In 1991 Pete Wilson, the new governor, needed an initiative. The Southern California developers were fearful of listed species stopping their projects, and federal HCPs were starting to get attention.
DFG (Department of Fish and Game) proposed creating the NCCP to:
Avoid listings
Improve conservation
Satisfy mitigation and share mitigation costs
Avoid project by project mitigation
That was the original intent, but the specifics were vague. When the science was looked at it became apparent that natural communities were more realistic to protect than single species, but the communities would be centered around the needs of the protected species. Reserves were to be established to offset the “taking” of protected species by development. Species protection and recovery was to be paid by future developers whose developments will impact the named species.

Wayne Spencer from the conservation Biology Institute gave a presentation called “Trends in Independent Science, Advice for NCCP/HCP With a Focus on Climate Change”. This is a group of independent scientists who can advise the local stakeholders hammering out the NCCP/HCP documents. The science will inform decision making at the State, County and Local levels for the decades the documents will cover. They do not advocate for policies or values, or comment on adequacy of the document.

Woody Elliott gave the first case study on the Butte County NCCP process. The HCP was first proposed in the 1990’s, but local governments thought it would be too expensive a process. Then BCAG (Butte County Association of Governments) took it on calling it BRCP, the Butte Regional Conservation Plan, a joint HCP and NCCP document. It contains 41 protected species and 5 protected communities. The conservation strategy is on 3 levels: landscape, natural community, and species. A draft document is expected at the end of 2012, and it is expected to be signed off at the end of 2013.

Kevin Bryant gave an overview of the NCCP process in the Santa Clara Valley area. The document was finished in 2004. It protects 49,920 acres, and will:
Add open space
Protect habitat for species
Focus on protection, but also recovery
Requires willing sellers
CNPS was invited to give input
Valley and Blue Oak communities mitigated
Nitrogen deposition is recognized and mitigation provided for
The developer fees are based on where development would take place.

Katie Barrows talked about an NCCP in place since 2008 in the Coachella Valley. She emphasized the importance of a landscape perspective. Their goals were to:
Protect corridors to allow animal movement from one place to another.
Create a watershed boundary
Try to limit the number of counties involved
Include 27 covered species, and 27 natural communities
Ensure long-term conservation
Protect 1.1 million acres
Create a reserve system of 724,740 acres
Afford protection for 75 years
So far 77,000 acres have been preserved.

As you can see, this process is expensive and time consuming. Each one of these has taken over 10 years and cost millions of dollars. Despite the complications and setbacks, all presenters agreed that building a working NCCP document will be much better than looking at each development piecemeal, which is what most areas have done. If you want any more detail on these presentations, let me know.

SUNDAY September 9th

Lauren Brown talked to us about the elections. We still need some nominations for board and CC positions. Please consider nominating yourself for a state-level position. It is a really great group of people, and there is so much that needs to be done to protect the green foundation that makes all other terrestrial life possible.

Cari Porter gave us an overview of our State budget. I have pie charts and I’ll bring them to the next board meeting. We are still in the red. But it is believed the crisis has “bottomed out” and revenue is increasing.

Carol Witham reminded us that the 2015 CNPS Conference is already in the planning stages. It will coincide with CNPS’s 50th anniversary, and be held somewhere in the East Bay. It will be Tuesday through Sunday just prior to Martin Luther King weekend. There will be 2 days of workshops, 3 days of scientific presentations, and 1 day of public workshops. They are still looking for partnerships and sponsors.

Orchid Black our liaison to the Board of Directors reminded the CC of its duties:
Review the work of the Board
Annual evaluation of the Board
Tell the chapters what they need to know to govern effectively
She stated the CC needs to express to the Board what it wants the Board to do. That there needs to be a better way to integrate the goals of the chapters and duties of the Board. The Board wants the chapters to reach out to them with problems and proposals.
CNPS has just received a bequest of $50,964 from the estate of Scott and Jenny Flemming, who were both instrumental in starting CNPS, and who were fellows of the Society. The Board is asking for input from the chapters as to what project/s the funds should go for.

As stated in the last delegates report, directories will not be printed out as before. The directory will be on line. However each chapter gets one copy and if we want more copies I can request them by September 16th. They will be $10 each to print. If anyone feels the need to have more copies let me know by the 16th.

**Caroline Garland** gave a presentation urging all chapters to host horticultural symposia. There are many reasons to do this, not least of which is education and outreach to our members and non-members. The State will help with registration, templates, speakers, media outreach, and help seek partnerships and funding. Some highlights from previous symposia are:

- 8 symposia attracting 1300 people total
- Lafayette and Berkeley held one with 250 attendees
- Camarillo got 38 new members from their symposium
- The largest attendance of any one symposium was 300 people

As you know I think our chapter ought to consider this. With so much help from the State office, it could be a very successful and educational outreach. As I mentioned before, the State would like 30% of the revenues, which typically are in the thousands of dollars. It would be a win-win for our Chapter and the State.

One last thing: There will be a PBS eco-documentary called “1000 cords, Connecting Genes to Ecosystems”. It sounds like a really good program. In the Sacramento Area it will be broadcast on September 18th at 8 PM. For times in other areas, and for more information about the show, go to the website below.

http://athousandinvisiblecords.org/broadcasts-showings