CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
Chapter Council Meeting  
December 8-9 2012

Elections: Lauren Brown reports all positions were filled during the last election cycle. There are 4 members timing out in 2013, so if anyone is interested in a Board position, contact Lauren Brown, and there is also the 2014 elections to think about.

---The State currently has 23 standing committees. Some are closed, but some are still welcoming interested people to join. You can find a description and goals of the committees on the website. Contact David Bingham for more information.

BOD: Orchid Black reports that CNPS will offer a $35 membership category to members of the Botanical Society.

---The Financial-Investment Policy committee is looking for an investment counselor.

---The Board discussed communications with Chapters and structural changes such as getting the final CC agenda to the delegates before the CC meeting.

---Steve Hartman showed us a graph with revenue and expenses for all the State committees.

Student Grants: Joan Stewart reported that $6500 was given out as student grants. Seven students were selected out of 23 applicants. The grant process is being revised to include a criteria that student projects must further the cause of CNPS.

---There are several endowment funds available for educational grants. CNPS needs reviewers with solid science backgrounds. Anyone interested, contact Joan Stewart.

Directors Report: The Conservation Campaign which has been raising money all year with a goal of $100,000 at the end of the year is at $80,000. The ending date has been extended to March.

---There was a large gift to the CNPS State office of $345,000 by an anonymous donor to be spent in the 2013 fiscal year. The funds are targeted to specific programs, for example $17,000 will go to the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt.

---A new affiliated group is being proposed in Baja, the first outside California.

---Ellen Edleson recommends the State print more Spanish language brochures.

Education: Josie Crawford talked about the Nature Journaling project. The curriculum has been updated, and is available on line. Some of the children who have been using the journaling techniques are now putting together local floras which are available at the website as well.

---Resources that are available now to download off the website are the new updated Journaling curriculum, videos on “How to Draw Plants”, by Jack Laws, and the “Open World Field Guide” project with maps and guides.

Conservation: Greg Suba talked first about the desert solar and wind projects. There are currently 100 proposed projects both on public and private land. Greg can only respond to the ones that most impact native plants, so is working on 7.
He is also making input to Timber Harvest Plans. He is trying to develop ecological standards that the Board of Forestry will adopt.

--With the current reevaluation of CEQA being proposed, Greg and Vern Goehring are working on a revision for legislators to educate them on the important features. There is a new landscape in the Sacramento legislature where the Democrats will no longer have a super majority in both houses. What that will mean will not be known until the end of 2013. Some of the problems of the current CEQA requirements are:

- conflicts of interest
- confidentiality agreements
- application fees, and lead agency costs
- the shelf life of EIR documents
- deferred mitigation
- currently there are no provisions for plant communities or habitats
- enforcement is spotty
- lead agencies can, and often do, prepare their own EIR
- the overuse of “overriding considerations”

Greg and Vern are working to make sure science is respected in the process.

We had a presentation updating the information about Sudden Oak Death by Matteo Garbelotto a USB Forest Pathologist. The pathogen, Phytophthora ramorum, was introduced into California in the 1980s via nursery stock. It affects most coastal tree and shrub species to differing extents. It is related to kelp, and its activity is dependent upon water. A fast and aggressive pathogen it causes 60% mortality in oaks, and a 90% mortality of tanoak. A tree that often carries and spreads the pathogen is the California Bay. It is particularly dangerous to oaks when it grows within 100 ft. It has a patchy distribution, and so far is contained to the Coast Range. There is an effort ongoing to monitor the Bay trees and look for the pathogen. There are collecting materials on line if you want to help with this project.

Horticulture break-out: I attended the Horticulture committee headed by Arvind Kumar. Each Chapter representative in turn talked about the plant sales they held each year sharing what worked for them. One thing most Chapters agreed on was the need to be able to accept a credit card for payments. Arvind says the State office will be looking at devising a way for all Chapters to be able to take credit cards, and report at the March CC meeting.

Membership break-out: Jim attended. The cost to service a member is about $25/year. We are losing non-renewing members after a year or two. Our appeal with initial enticements, or the things we offer as activities (which are available without membership), don’t hold members. We need to instill an interest in and commitment to native plant conservation as a cause. We need a good “video” that tells the story of native plants and their importance in a compelling way, and highlights the need for their conservation. Personal contact and follow-up with new members is important. Membership appeal letter goes to ~15,000 people, and we get 300 or 400 responses.
Education break-out: Jim & I attended. The Education committee will work on a binder for educational curriculum to be used in different circumstances, such as plant sales, table staffing, wildflower shows etc.

SUNDAY Dec. 9

Rare Plant Program: The Program is looking for funding and volunteers to scan the Rare Plant Inventory to digitalize it. They are also looking for volunteers to scan Ledyard Stebbins’ 3 X 5 note cards containing information about the plants he encountered. --A Rare Plant Calendar is planned, and Chapters are asked to choose 2 local rare plants from each rank for each month. The goal is to picture several that bloom around the State each month of the year.
--Also requested from individuals in Chapters who have pictures of rare plants they can share with the State.
--The new edition of the Rare Plant Inventory will be a “print-to-order” edition, with annual updates. Aaron Sims, the Rare Plant Botanist can be contacted about getting a quick copy online.

Rare Plant Treasure Hunt: There is a training manual and staff support available. Our Chapter, Mount Lassen, was mentioned as an example of Chapter involvement in the program having excellent participation and success (thank you Ron Coley). The Treasure Hunt has engaged other conservation groups as well, and 100’s of new and relocated occurrences have been found. Chapters are encouraged to go to each location more than once if possible.

Board President update: Brett Hall relates the Board talked about working on better communications between the CC and the Board.
--He reminds us that the 50th anniversary of the CNPS organization will be coming up in 2015. Plans are in the works to celebrate with many different offerings. Each Chapter is encouraged to think of showcasing CNPS during that time.