Saturday

Board of Directors Report: Marty Foltyn and Bill Waycott related that the Society is in good financial shape.
--There are still staff openings to be filled.
--The Phytophthora website is up and running, and the State will be surveying plant sales chairs to give them information, and ask how the CNPS policy can be implemented.  
--Several CNPS published books will be available soon including: Sequoia-Kings Flora (out in March), the Monterey County picture book about the flora of the County, and the Flora of Napa County which is going to the printer. If any Chapters have books to propose or want help with publishing, contact Becky Riley.
--Approval has been granted for the litigation concerning the Santa Cruz Corizanthe
--An amicus brief has been filed on the Algodones Dunes challenging take permits. For information about these conservation issues contact Greg Suba.

Treasurer’s Report: Steve Hartman reports that half way through our fiscal year CNPS is on a solid footing. Our income is above budget. We currently have about 1 million dollars in restricted funds. We also have long and short-term investments. We also just received the Schwartz bequest of $435,000.
--There was a discussion about the Executive Board’s desire to change the policy where the Chapter Council (CC) gives direction to the Board on how to spend unrestricted donations above $50,000. The Executive Board wanted to make those decisions without input from the Chapter Council. There was push-back from many on the CC who feel the policy clearly states the CC is to advise the Board on the direction the organization should be going. This issue is not going away, and I will keep you updated as I know more. Executive Director: Dan Gluesencamp told us about a new hire, lev O’Keeffe who is the new Director of Communications and Marketing. She will also be in charge of any Horticulture and Education developments for the time being. He has no plans for hiring an Horticulture or Education Director. He believes our partners are doing those things fine, and we can help them by pushing our horticulture values instead of competing with them. He did not name the partners.
--The CNPS website is being overhauled.
--The Action Plan for the Strategic Plan is coming soon, at least by March.
--Calscape.cnps.org is up and running, and a valuable tool to help people choose native plants that grow well in their area.

Presentation: Karen Whitestone, a Conservation Analyst hired by the East Bay Chapter, explained what she does for them. It includes comment letters, site visits, meetings, blogs, and newsletter articles.

Election Results: Carol Witham gave us the election results.

Presentation: Holly Forbes from the UC Berkeley Botanic Garden gave us a brief description of what the Garden does. Several duties they have are: Conserving plants confiscated that were illegally brought into the State, Conserving germ plasm of California native plants, and Conserving restoration species. One of those species the Berkeley Garden is growing for restoration purposes is the Large-Flowered Fiddleneck.

New Fellows: Two new fellows were inaugurated at the banquet this evening, Joe Willingham and Diane Lake, both from East Bay Chapter.

Sunday

Information for Chapters: Steve Hartman described a security problem called phishing. Several Chapters have received bogus emails to the treasurer to move money out of the Chapter bank account. I’m not sure if any of them have been successful, but all Chapters should be on the lookout.
--All delegates who seek reimbursement from the State for travel and accommodations to the Chapter Council meetings must request it within 30 days of the meeting date.
For insurance purposes, all inventory held by Chapters needs to be updated annually along with the value of the items and the location. The figure should reflect the wholesale price for the item, and for plants, the cost of pots, soil, fertilizer etc. Use a “high average” not the minimum, as this sets the limit on any claims you might make in the future. This inventory should happen before June.

-- Sign-in sheets are important to use and keep from events.
-- Any contract we make with an organization should be sent to Pat McDaniel or Becky Riley.
-- Any property the Chapter has exclusive use over, rooms, buildings, gardens etc., must have insurance with a $1000 deductible.

Phytophthora: Steve Goetz, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee said that the CNPS Policy on Phytophthora was adopted on December 5th.

-- Several workshops are being scheduled for habitat restoration agencies, and CNPS Plant Sales Chairs. There will soon be FAQs on the website.
-- Legislation is being considered to use only pathogen-free materials in State-funded habitat restoration projects.
-- A motion was made to ask the State CNPS to provide financial, in-kind, and manpower assistance to Chapter nurseries. The motion was carried.

Education break-out: Jim Bishop
-- There is no Education Director now, but much interest in education in the Chapters.
-- Three of the Education Committee members were joined by 10 other interested folks to discuss what is going on and what might need to be done in education.
-- After a good discussion, with many ideas put forward, it was decided that we need to learn more about what parts of the Education Program are active, who is in charge of them, and how that compares with those things that we see as important to be doing in education.

Conservation break-out: Suggestions for Chapters that came out of this session were:
-- Form partnerships with other local conservation groups.
-- Sponsor clean-up days.
-- Sell the economic importance of open areas.
-- Participate in the monthly conservation conference calls with Greg Suba, the Conservation Director.

Next CC meeting: Carpinteria March 12th. The CC business will be only on one day, Saturday, and Sunday will be an all-day fieldtrip to Santa Cruz Island.