This Chapter Council (CC) meeting lasted only one day this time to give a whole day to a fieldtrip to Santa Cruz Island on Sunday. The meeting started out with our new Chapter Council Chairperson, Marty Foltyn talking about the year in review. There are currently 35 Chapters that cover 34 geographic areas, and usually 24-25 chapters are represented at the CC meetings. Among other things, the CC is tasked with:

-- Board elections and evaluations
-- Strategic Planning and evaluations
-- Review the by-laws
-- Established plant-related policy
-- Approve new Chapters
-- Keep Chapters informed about important State matters

In 2016 the CC:
-- Developed a policy on Phytophthora along with best nursery practices
-- Worked on Chapter relations
-- Voted on the Strategic Plan
-- Held Board elections
-- Voted to approve Fellows
-- Recognized volunteer service

The Goals for 2017
-- Board evaluations
-- Strategic Plan evaluation
-- By-laws review
-- Plant Policies review
-- Leadership and human resources
-- Chapter Council relations
  - New Chapter Ideas
  - Ad Hoc Committee on Chapter support
  - 2017 will be called the “Year of Communication”
  - Advertising, geocaching, conservation, and education for Chapters
  - Encourage Chapters near each other to share fieldtrips, newsletter articles, speakers, etc.
  - More discussion about the movement of plants with climate change in mind, not just trying to preserve plants in place.
  - Advise Chapters about advocacy
  - Upgrade our web presence
2016 Review of Board of Directors: There were 9 Chapter responses to the request to fill out a survey asking about how well they thought the Board was doing its work. There were 29 responses in 2015. There was a consensus that the Chapters need to have more understanding about what the Board does.

CC Representatives to the Board, David Pryor, and Johanna Kwan,
-- Finances are in good shape
-- If Chapters pursue grants, they should look to the State for guidance
-- The Board is asking all delegates to step up and join committees

Executive Director, Dan Gluesencamp, reported on the new staff. Liv O’Keefe will be the new Communications staff person in charge of horticulture, education, and all-around Chapter outreach.

Project reports:
-- Chapter horticulture programs are becoming more active
-- the Calscape website is being visited more often, with an average time spent per visit at 5 minutes.
-- Certification for botanists is moving ahead. This program is for consulting botanists only
-- Landscaper’s training is still under development, with the curriculum 90% finished
-- Conference 2018 call for abstracts is open. Chapters are encouraged to sponsor students
-- Dan is recommending the CC consider acceptance of a new mountain biking chapter in CNPS. This proposal was put forth by Bill Waycott, president of the Board, and an avid mountain biker. If you are interested in his arguments, contact me, and I will send his write-up. This will also be discussed at the June CC meeting.

Engagement and Outreach, Liv O’Keefe, gave us a presentation about “Winning Hearts”. The several points she made were:
-- Restoring nature one garden at a time…the promotion of native gardens is an important outreach tool.
-- California is a biodiversity hotspot of endemic plants
-- What we do as an organization matters…the media is watching
-- We have people who literally give all their free time to CNPS…they feel it is that important.

CNPS Today:
-- We currently have 85,000 members
-- We currently have 20,000 followers on our social media sites
-- There have been 350,000 visits to CNPS.org
-- Calscape alone has had 212,000 views

Conclusions:
-- We have a powerful story to tell
-- We can grow our base
-- We can do better
-- We need a modern toolkit
-- We have got great “bones” (history, infrastructure, dedicated people)
-- We need to stay relevant
-- Know, save, enhance, and restore
-- We are all ambassadors

She plans on moving us into the future with the new ideas and tools available to us, that were not around when we CNPS started.

**Climate Change Policy Discussion.** Jim Bishop led a discussion on whether CNPS ought to have a policy on climate change since other conservation organizations have one. Policies guide an organization for a very long time. They give us specific goals to accomplish, and dos and don’ts that commit us. It all has to be science based. He suggested an ad hoc committee on whether we need a policy or just a statement. If we choose policy, then we need a sponsor. Greg Suba, the Conservation Director spoke out against a policy, saying there is not enough science to inform us on what exactly to do. Snowdy Dodson made a motion to convene a committee, and that passed. This topic will be back at the June meeting. Anyone interested in being on the committee, or participating in the discussion, is welcome.

**Conservation.** Greg Suba gave us several informational points:
-- CNPS can lobby for a candidate on the Coastal Commission, but not for a candidate for an elected office.
-- CNPS currently spends 6% of its available lobbying funds on lobbying.
-- The bill SB 249 addresses the way the OHV (off highway vehicle) administration is structured. Many conservative groups support it, but CNPS is against.

**Consulting Botanist Certification,** Dave Magney reported that 5 out of 11 botanists who took the first field exam failed, and 0 out of 9 passed the consulting botanist test.

**Rare Plant Treasure Hunt,** Catherine Curley the new coordinator says her goal is for every chapter to have at least 1 Treasure Hunt this year. She wants to get new leaders trained, and make sure we have a strong presence on social media.

**Finance.** This break-out session talked about preparing a finance handout for treasurers.

The next CC meeting will be June 9-10 in Big Bear, San Bernardino.