

*of the Southern California Botanists*

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## **2008 SCB Symposium – Save the Date**

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This year's SCB Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Ruby Gerontology Center on the campus of California State University, Fullerton. This year's symposium,

### *Problem Groups Made Simple*

will focus on difficult plant groups and why they are confusing, along with natural history and field trips to study selected taxa.

Save the date and look for further information in future issues of Leaflets.

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## **Meetings of the Society for Ecological Restoration**

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The California Society for Ecological Restoration (SERCAL) will be holding its 15<sup>th</sup> annual conference this year from August 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa. Abstracts related to the 2008 SERCAL conference titled *Restoration's Bigger Picture: Linking local restoration to regional and global issues* are due by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Look to the society's website ([www.sercal.org](http://www.sercal.org)) for further information or contact Susan Clark, Conference Coordinator at [smclark@lightspeed.net](mailto:smclark@lightspeed.net) or call 661-634-9228.

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## **California Native Plant Society Conference**

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The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is teaming up with CDFG and other government agencies and conservation groups for a statewide conservation

conference titled "CNPS 2009 Conservation Conference: Strategies and Solutions" January 17-19, 2009 in Sacramento. The conference will unite thousands of scientists, land managers, conservationists, planners, and policymakers to learn about the latest updates in conservation science. To volunteer or for more information, visit [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org), or contact them at [cnps@cnps.org](mailto:cnps@cnps.org), or phone (916) 447-2677.

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## **Consortium of California Herbaria**

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The Consortium of California Herbaria was developed to serve as a gateway to information from California vascular plant specimens that are housed in herbaria throughout the state. The database now includes information from almost 840,000 specimens, all searchable through a single interface <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>.

Originally developed around botanical collections from University of California herbaria, the consortium continues to grow as more collections are added. Currently, twelve collections are accessible through this interface (JEPS, SBBG, CHSC, DAV, IRVC, UCR, UCSB, UCSC, UC, RSA-POM, SJSU, SD, and PGM). The participating institutions cooperate under the guidelines of a Memorandum of Understanding, and participation as a data provider to the Consortium database is open to California herbaria that meet minimum requirements for data inclusion (see <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/about.html>).

Another goal of the consortium is to provide coordinate data (latitude/longitude) for as many California specimens as possible. Currently, specimens from all participating institutions are being georeferenced on a county-by-county basis. Using BerkeleyMapper, the georeferenced specimens returned from any Consortium search can be mapped directly from the Consortium accession results page.

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## **Spring Classes at RSABG**

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The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is offering a number of short courses this spring, in addition to its garden walks and other activities. These include:

'Propagation of Native Plants from Cuttings' - May 3<sup>rd</sup> (1:00 pm – 5:00 pm).

'Post Fire Succession in the Chaparral of the San Bernardino Mountains: Natural History Trip' - May 10th (7:30 am – 4:30 am).

'Wacky World of Pollinators: Native Plants & the Critters that Love Them' - May 1 (classroom session) and May 10th (2:00 pm – 4:00 pm).

'Gardening with Cacti and Succulents' - May 17th (9:00 am – 12:00 pm).

'Collecting, Processing, and Sorting Native Plant Seed' - June 7th (9:00 am – 5:00 pm).

'Plant Life of the San Gabriel Mountains' – June 8th (7:30 am – 4:00 pm).

'Native Plant Families Part II: Identification Workshop' - June 14th (9:00 am – 3:00 pm)

Consult the garden's Calendar at [www.rsabg.org](http://www.rsabg.org) for further details about these classes.

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## Upcoming Events

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### Field Trips

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**May 30 & 31** (Friday and Saturday) Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz. 12:00 pm-12:00 pm.

The National Geographic Society and the National Park Service are organizing a BioBlitz in Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Biologists will participate in taxonomic inventory, public outreach, and science education. Teams will venture into the field to find, identify, and map as many species as possible within a 24-hour period (noon to noon). Additional activities include presentations about biodiversity, structured field exercises for K-12 classes, demonstrations of field technology, and local nature photography exhibits. Activities will take place at Paramount Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains, and other sites around the mountains. This event will be the second annual BioBlitz in a series of different National Park Service units around the country for the next decade and will be joined by California State Parks and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. For participation details and further information, please register - on-line at

[www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz/scientist](http://www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz/scientist), or reply at [bioblitz@ngs.org](mailto:bioblitz@ngs.org).

**May 3** (Saturday) Family Excursion Reptile Hunt 8:30 am – 10:30 am.

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Learn about snakes and lizards of the desert and some of their ways of surviving where humans fear to tread and then seek them out for an up-close and personal encounter. Bring binoculars, drinking water, sun screen and good walking shoes. This field trip is free at the National Monument Visitor Center and is an easy walk. For more information contact Bonnie Adkins, Park Ranger, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument at 760-862-9984 or e-mail at [badkins@ca.blm.gov](mailto:badkins@ca.blm.gov).

**May 3** (Sunday) California Native Plant Society Orange County Chapter: Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve Joint trip with Sierra Club Natural Science Section 8:45 am.

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Join trip leaders Liana Argento and Gabriele Rau, with Bob Muns and enjoy nature, watch birds, learn about a variety of habitats, and review some local history on this easily paced six mile hike on flat terrain with stops for photo opportunities. This trip includes a walk of the Back Bay Drive, a tour of Big Canyon and a stop at Back Bay Café for lunch and return by mid afternoon. Open to anyone, members and non-members, but pre-registry is preferred. For further details contact Rich Schilk, [birdGuy@naturalista.net](mailto:birdGuy@naturalista.net) or call Joan Hampton at (714) 283-9146.

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### Plant Science Workshops

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The CNPS Plant Science Training Program is offering numerous workshops for professional botanists, biologists, and ecologists through May 2008. The purpose of this program is to teach skills and provide tools and resources for conducting scientific surveys for rare plant communities, wetlands, and vegetation.

**May 4 & 5** (Sunday and Monday)

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Identification, Ecology, and Management of the Most Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands, UC Davis and Sac. Valley habitats. Instructors include

Joe DiTomaso, Guy Kyser, and Jacob Barney. For additional information, contact Josie Crawford (CNPS Plant Science Coordinator) at [jcrawford@cnps.org](mailto:jcrawford@cnps.org), or call (916) 447-2677.

**May 28 - 30 (Wednesday - Friday)**

Wetland Plants of the Lower Sacramento Valley and Delta, Cosumnes Preserve, Galt, and Delta sloughs aboard the Tule Queen. Instructors include Virginia Dains, Bob Holland, and Jeff Hart. For additional information, contact Josie Crawford (CNPS Plant Science Coordinator) at [jcrawford@cnps.org](mailto:jcrawford@cnps.org), or call (916) 447-2677.

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## Other Recreational Activities

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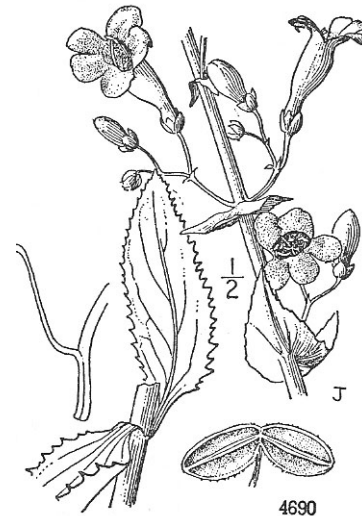
The Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Reserve protects 8,300 acres of unique ecosystems including Engelmann oak woodlands, riparian wetlands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral and one of the best examples of bunchgrass prairies remaining in California. Springtime blooms include chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria biflora*), California poppies (*Eschscholzia californica*), and thread-leaf brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*). In addition, an extremely rare type of wetland known as a vernal pool is accessible to visitors by a boardwalk. Animal species are also protected on the reserve and include mule deer, bobcat, mountain lion, badger, western pond turtle, white-tailed kites and fairy shrimp.

Some of the oldest remaining structures in Riverside County can be found on the reserve. These two adobe structures exist under a 400 year old canopy and once served as bunkhouses for cowboys dating back to 1846.

Recreational activities range from horseback riding, mountain biking (restricted to Sylvan Meadows Multi-use Area of the Plateau), hiking, and attending interpretive programs. Interpretive programs put on by the visitor center include general public walks on Saturdays at 9:30 am that describe the Plateau's geology, plant communities, and conservation story, three mile mountain bike tours on Saturdays at 2:00 pm focusing on wildlife, human history, and prescribed burn programs of the reserve. In addition, school and group programs are

also offered through reservation only. Fees include \$3 per person with a minimum group fee of \$36. Tours last approximately three hours.

The reserve is open daily from sunrise to sunset and is located at 39400 Clinton Keith Road in Murrieta, CA 92562. Contact (951) 677-6951 for more information. The visitor center on site is open on Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Day use fees include \$2 for adults and \$1 for children between 2 and 12.



*Penstemon spectabilis* Thurber  
beardtongue

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Information to be included in the next issue of LEAFLETS (Vol. 17, No.4) should be sent to the editor by April 3, 2008.

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