

The Hoover Award is given by our CNPS Chapter to honor a chapter member who has performed "distinguished service" on behalf of the chapter and the local flora. The selection is made through consensus in a meeting of past recipients of the award.

When we examine how CNPS is structured, it is clear that the most important functions of our statewide society are our scientific authority represented by our Rare Plant and Vegetation programs; our Conservation program, in which we fight for pro-conservation actions of government and the private sector and oppose destructive activities; and, our Education programs that involve public field trips, horticultural programs and other forms of public outreach.

John Chesnut, this year's recipient of the Hoover Award has made significant contributions in all three fields. Under the heading of Science, he plays a critical role in our chapter's rare plant program, which includes working with others in making a photo collection of our listed plants, Rare Plant committee field searches, maintaining databases and working with our state office and agencies such as U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Dept. of Fish and Game. Sometimes it manifests itself by going to extreme measures to locate populations of rare plants, such as wading up to his chest in the swamps of Oso Flaco Lake. He has mapped the distribution of eel grass in Morro Bay, the plant communities and distribution of Nipomo lupine of the Nipomo dunes, and is a contributor to the SLO Land Conservancy's weed control efforts. He consults with other professional botanists, and is considered a learned authority throughout the state.



Under the heading of Conservation, he has made several very significant contributions. Perhaps the most important is his work in the creation of the Los Osos greenbelt as a founding director of Morro estuary Greenbelt Alliance, which became the lead in protecting this habitat. In this context he has been involved in veldt grass clearance, and the production of informational material for grants. He is responsible for getting the Hearst Corporation to agree to protect rare plant populations on Hearst Ranch, using earlier research by Malcolm McLeod, and was active in challenging development in Morro manzanita habitat to the Coastal Commission.

Under the heading of Education, he has worked many years with the students of Los Osos Middle School, Susie Bernstein and John Nowak on the planning, planting and maintenance of their native garden. He is a willing resource to those seeking information on native plants, and a patient tutor on taxonomic issues to the rest of us.

- David Chipping