

OBISPOENSIS

Newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of the
California Native Plant Society for San Luis Obispo
and Northern Santa Barbara Counties



MAY 2006

Malcolm G. McLeod

Dr. Malcolm G. McLeod passed away early April 7. He was active right up to the end, even attending our Shell Creek meeting and field trip the Saturday before. His daughters, Nison and Cynthia, were with him.

Malcolm was a Professor of botany in Cal Poly's Biological Sciences Department from 1973 to 1988. He taught Plant Taxonomy, Native Plant (horticultural) materials and various other botanical courses. He inspired students to appreciate native plants and some went on to careers in botany and horticulture.

Malcolm's contribution to the California Native Plant Society in general and our Chapter in particular cannot be contained in a few words. Yes, he was a past president, chairman of the rare plant committee, and at the time of his death, Chapter Historian. Yes, his being granted the honor of a State CNPS Fellow recognized his contribution to the state. But

his real contributions are not in the offices and honors he received. It is that he was a real friend and advisor. Without even trying, he encouraged all of us to be a little better. Whenever we had a problem that needed

solution, we knew we could call him

up and he would listen and, even if he didn't offer a solution himself, just letting us talk often allowed the solution to present itself. His quiet consul and friendly manner will be missed at meetings and on field trips.

Dr. McLeod's contribution to the rare plant committee and his authorship of a number of wildflower books require special mention. Although he gave up chairmanship of the Rare Plant Committee some time ago, he continued as unofficial photographer and spiritual advisor. It was he who collected the original information and was doing the final put-together of the planned CD summarizing the new data the current committee has been gathering. Along with all this, he still had time to put together three books or pamphlets on wildflowers – *Dune Mother's Wildflower Guide*, *Wildflowers of Highway 58* and *Wildflowers of the Carrizo Plains*.

Our Chapter will miss him and will be a much the poorer for his passing.



Malcolm McLeod

Ehrharta erecta, Panic Veldt Grass

A New Local Invader?

Illustration by Bonnie K. Walters

Text by Dirk R. Walters and Lauren Brown

The plant profiled for this issue of Obispoensis is *Ehrharta erecta*, panic veldt grass, a non-native, potentially INVASIVE grass species that has recently been identified around Los Osos in San Luis Obispo County. There are three species of *Ehrharta* known to have been introduced in California. We are more familiar with *E. calycina*, perennial veldt grass, which has been recognized as a major problem in the dunes and other sandy soil habitats in the Central Coast. The third species, *E. longiflora*, is an annual that was recently discovered in the San Diego area. All three species are native to South Africa.

Bonnie and Dirk Walters prepared the illustrations of panic veldt grass in this issue. The vegetative part

of the plant is represented by a straight digital scan on a photo-grade scanner. The three additional drawings are by Bonnie. The two upper ones represent the inflorescence or spikelet as would be seen with a hand lens. The inflorescence is a panicle, 2 to 6 inches long, with laterally compressed sessile to sub-sessile spikelets that fall as a unit. There are three small florets per spikelet, two are sterile and one fertile. In this grass, the spikelet is very small, (less than one-eighth of an inch long). The drawing of the inflorescence or spikelet depicts the three large anthers and two very feathery stigmas. The bract to the right of the flower parts is the known as the lemma and is the primary subtending bract of the

single flower or floret. The fertile lemma is subtended by three sterile or staminate lemmas. Since each flower has a single lemma, the presence of a lemma defines a flower whether or not there are actual flower parts in the axial of the lemma. The sterile lemmas are without awns, which is a distinguishing feature for the species; *E. calycina* has sterile lemmas with short awns and the annual *E. longiflora* has sterile lemmas with very long awns (Bossard et. al., 2000). At the very base of the spikelet are two bracts, one approximately 1/2 the length of the other. These are the sterile bracts or glumes. As can be seen from the drawing, the only thing they have in their axial is a floret or lemma.

The branching stems may be decumbent or upright, 12 to 24 inches tall. The flat, green leaf blades are 2 to 5 inches in length and 0.2 to 0.4 inch wide (Bossard et. al., 2000). The third drawing, by Bonnie, is of the base of the blade where it joins the top of the sheath. The conspicuous feature there is the vertical scarious (texture of dry onion skin) layer projecting above the plane of the blade and seemingly covering the stem. This structure is a

ligule and in this genus is characteristically toothed or fringed at the top. It is unique to the grasses although the term, ligule, is used for different structures in other plant families.

This paragraph is for the taxonomists among us. Bonnie's drawing is scrupulously accurate. We checked and rechecked. Her drawing creates a discrepancy with one of the couplets in Jepson's grass key. The two glumes are supposed to be " \pm equal", not one $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the other. The next statement in the key describes this species' lemma exactly. It describes the cross-wrinkling near the lemma's top precisely. According to *The Jepson Manual*, this species does not occur in San Luis Obispo County. In addition the descriptions of the species are really sketchy.

Ehrharta erecta is included in the California Invasive Plant Council's (CalIPC) List of Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California (1999), List B (Wildland Pest Plants of Lesser Invasiveness; invasive pest plants that spread less rapidly and cause a lesser degree of habitat disruption; may be widespread or regional). It is spread primarily though wind borne seeds, but can also spread vegetatively (Bossard et. al., 2000). Most information on the control of *Ehrharta* species is limited to *E. calycina*. Chemical control methods include the application of glyphosate (Roundup[®] or AquaMaster[®]) or fluazifop-p (Fusilade[®]), a grass-specific herbicide. There are no known biological controls for *Ehrharta* species, although grazing (sheep/cows) is still being researched. Manual removal (hand-pulling) is difficult (care must be taken to remove the entire base of the plant) and time-consuming (must be repeated as plants emerge from the seedbank). Although fire (prescribed burning) is sometimes used to control grasses, studies have shown that fire increases the invasiveness of *Ehrharta* species (Bossard et al., 2000).

As stated in the text, this species was not known to occur in San Luis Obispo County, but has recently been found in the Los Osos area where it is suspected to have been planted for erosion control or otherwise accidentally introduced. Dave Chipping observed this species growing in the understory of oaks at one location, and John Nowak noticed it in gardens where typically more moisture is available. It seems to establish in the understory of shrubs and other grasses (shady spots) then grow up through the canopy where it is difficult to separate and eradicate. John has indicated that panic veldt grass seems to be spreading in alarming rates in gardens around Baywood and Bay Ridge Estates. It does not appear to be in Sweet Springs Preserve. John suggests that panic veldt grass is easy to recognize and recommends pulling it if you find it in your garden (stems are reddish at the base and roots are red-tinged). This is a potential new invader to the coast of San Luis Obispo County and should be watched.

References:

- Bossard, C. C., J. M. Randall, and M. C. Hoshovsky. 2000. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands*. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- California Invasive Plant Council (CalIPC). October 1999. List of Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California. Website: <http://www.calipc.org>.
- Hickman, J.C. (ed.). 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

CONSERVATION NEWS

The City of San Luis Obispo has combined the Conservation Element and Open Space Element of the General Plan into a single document. The first draft looked bad, with many of the "shalls" altered to "shoulds", but this has now been reversed and the document is not looking too bad. To the credit of the City, it ran a number of workshops on the issue before it had the Administrative Draft come before the Council. I asked that the City reestablish the Environmental Quality Task Force, which acted as a watchdog during the drafting of the 1994 Land Use Element.

Of great interest to CNPS is Section 7.21.1 (Protect Listed Species), in which the City will identify the location, habitat and buffer needs of species listed for protection early in the planning and development review process, will establish and maintain records and maps on the location of listed species, but with specific site information may be kept confidential to protect the resources. The City will protect listed species through its actions on: land-use designations; development standards; development applications; location, design, construction and maintenance of creeks, City roads and facilities; and on land that the City owns or manages. The City definition of listed species includes all CNPS listed plants from List 1 to List 4.

Some of you may remember the battle we had over protection of Congdon's tar plant, which was formerly completely avoided by the City, but then could be 'taken' and mitigated in their revised regulation. This enabled the development of the "Costco-corridor" south of Los Osos Valley Road, but did result in what appears to be excellent mitigation and the creation of new wetlands in the Foothill Boulevard lowlands. While the current plan does not bring back the old higher protection, there has been no deterioration of the standards. However we will have to be careful of the concept of moving resources and offsite mitigation. The proposed new rules say the City may approve a project where mitigation requires relocation of listed species, but only if there is no practical alternative and relocation is limited to individuals or small parts of a larger population, not the entire remaining population of a species. The devil may dwell in the phrase "no practical alternative".

— David Chipping

CEQA LESSON #3- WHEN DOES A LEAD AGENCY DECLARE 'SIGNIFICANCE'

In the last homework you searched for places where you might hear of a development before the developer actually entered the CEQA process. Call your local government representative and/or your local newspaper to see if such committees exist. In many cases committees serve either a councilperson or supervisor, or possibly a specific planning commissioner, but may be independent "watchdog" groups, tied to a chamber of commerce, or something else. In the last lesson the developer had brought the project to the lead agency, which determines if it is a project under CEQA, and then if there is "significant environmental effect", and as both of these decisions may be flawed, CNPS should watch this with care. This time we look at the lead agency's next steps.

Some projects do not qualify for a CEQA review. Some projects are exempt by statute. While many do not affect plants and CNPS issues, some exempt projects such as the prevention and mitigation of emergencies might be too broadly interpreted. For example, projects affecting highway rights-of-way services are exempt, but adding lanes to a highway is not exempt. Feasibility and planning studies, discharge requirements, management of timberland reserves, adoption of local coastal plans, and ministerial projects (in which the Lead Agency has no power to alter the project in any way) such as issuance of building permits and approval of final subdivision maps are all CEQA exempt. There are also Categorical Exemptions. These include minor alterations to the land such as grading on slopes of less than 10%, landscaping, minor fills, trenching and backfilling, fuel management, minor lot line adjustments and set back variances, and actions to protect natural resources such as small habitat restoration or change of ownership.

It is critical for a CNPS activist to understand that categorical exemptions cannot be automatically applied when there is any significant impact, where the area is known to be particularly sensitive, where there are historical resources, where scenery along a scenic highway may be affected, and where cumulative impacts may be an issue.

If a project is not exempt, then the lead agency must determine if impacts are likely to be significant. There is a checklist form that the agency can use (Appendix I of CEQA Guidelines), and a checklist of effects (Appendix G). CNPS activists should be familiar with CEQA guidelines in these matters. So here is the homework for next time. Locate CEQA Guidelines on the web (an easy Google). Look at Article 5 of CEQA Guidelines: (http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/art5.html).

If you believe that the conditions of significance under Section 15065 (at the end of the Article 5) are met, you

had better defend a case for further CEQA review. And if I am going way too slowly for you, try looking at the CEQA Flowchart: (http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/flowchart/index.html).

Next lesson will be to follow the next steps taken by the lead agency. — *David Chipping*

President's Message

I thought this month I would share something else I learned at the Chapter Council meeting. The focus of the meeting was education and chapter delegates were invited to talk about the educational programs they are working on. I talked about the work John Nowak and Susi Bernstein have been doing at the Los Osos Middle School and other outreach chapter members have been doing at local grammar and high schools. During the presentations from other chapters, I was surprised to see the diversity of education programs. However, what I realized is that a large part of what we do is education; it's not limited to what we do with local schools. Our field trips, meeting programs, booths, plant sale, are all opportunities to share our experiences and learn from each other.

On April 7, our chapter lost Malcolm McLeod – a teacher, leader, mentor, and friend. I know we will continue his work and think of him often when we share our knowledge and appreciation (and photos) of native plants and rare species. — *Lauren Brown*

Chapter Meeting

Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall. "Plant Lovers as Watchdogs and Whistle Blowers" Presented by Bob Case

Invasive plants vie with habitat loss as the greatest threat to our wonderfully diverse native California flora. Budget cuts and staff reductions at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and county agricultural commissioners offices means fewer trained detection professionals in the field. Increased travel and the internet have opened new pathways for introduction of exotic seed and plant material. The net result is fewer eyes in the field, fewer detection surveys, and more undetected invasive plants.

As part of a Weed Summit, a state "Weed Plan" was developed to deal with invasive plants. One of the cornerstones of the new California State Weed Plan is "Early Detection and Rapid Response" (ED&RR). This is the most cost effective and environmentally sound way to deal with invasive plants. To accomplish this we need more trained observers in the field. The California Native Plant Society can help.

Chapter members are a vast untapped resource waiting to help. We can be trained as effective "Detection Partners." Pilot programs have already shown success.

Training materials have been developed; web-based resources can be utilized. A system of positive reinforcement and modest rewards can create "6000 Detection Volunteers."

Bob Case holds a Masters degree from San Francisco State University in Ecology and Systematics. He has taught biology and environmental science classes in many bay area community colleges for twenty-five years. Bob recently retired after 24 years of service with the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture. He served as a deputy commissioner, responsible for the implementation of biologically sound pest management practices, including the biological control of weeds.

Bob lives in Concord with his wife and daughter. He enjoys extended travel and weekend jaunts in California to pursue spring, and its bounty of wildflowers. He frequently speaks at meetings of plant lovers (CNPS etc.) and garden clubs on invasive plant management and wildflower photography.

Field Trips

Saturday, May 6. We will be joining the Morro Coast Audubon Society for the first collaborative picnic of these two groups at the White Oak Flats Picnic Area, Santa Margarita Lake. Please note: Daily use fees will be waived for event participants. Activities include informal and guided native plant and wildflower walks, bird walks, hikes, fishing, boating, canoeing, kayaking, biking, and activities and a playground for kids. Bring a picnic lunch and / or dinner (grills available for BBQs), kayaks, canoes, spotting scopes, bikes, etc. for enjoying the day at the lake. Santa Margarita Lake is San Luis Obispo's largest regional park and boasts an 800 acre lake along with oak woodland, riparian, freshwater wetland, and chaparral habitats. Nesting Clark's, western, and pied-billed grebes are likely sightings along with raptors including bald and golden eagles and peregrine falcons. Native plant inventory at the park includes various species of dudleya, phacelia, and lupine. Chia, woolly blue curls, larkspur and other showy spring wildflowers should be in bloom.

Birding with Roger Zachary at RIVER ROAD ACCESS begins at 8 a.m.: An easy 3 mile walk along the Salinas River before it flows into the lake. Appropriate for all experience levels.

All other activities begin at the White Oak Picnic Area at 9 a.m. (sign-up sheets available on day of event). 9 a.m. Birding and Plant Walk, 10 a.m. Kayak/Canoe, 11 a.m. Mountain Biking (participants must be at least 10 years of age, helmets required).

12 Noon Lunch Break

2 p.m. "Adventurous" Hike for children and "youthful minds" with Judy Neuhauser.

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Diner/Socializing. Possible campfire.

Ogonig (throughout the day): BOAT TRIPS aboard the Audubon research vessel with field biologists and trip

leaders, WATERFOWL AND WOODPECKER WATCH, FISHING Kid's Cove (for kid's only) and shore fishing around picnic area, HIKING: Grey Pine Trailhead located at picnic area, JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM Self-directed activities for school-age children

For additional information contact Al Schmierer, aaschmierer@yahoo.com or 772-2026, MCAS Field Trip chair, or Mardi Niles, mlniles@slonet.org or 489-9274, CNPS Field Trip chair.

Saturday, May 13, Return to Shell Creek with Dirk Walters. Meet at the San Luis Obispo Vets Hall in San Luis Obispo at 8:30 a.m. and at the Santa Margarita turnoff from Hwy 101 at 9:00 a.m. Because the Annual Field Trip Meeting to Shell Creek on April 1 was so rewarding there is a second trip planned this year. There is a sense that with the late rains this year the fields may still be carpeted with gold fields, lupine, tidy tips, California poppies and many more spring wildflowers. The group will make several stops along Hwy 58. Bring your copy of "Wildflowers of Highway 58" plant guide by Dr. Malcolm McLeod or plan to purchase one on the trip. Bring lunch, water, a hat and dress in layers. For additional information call Dirk Walters at 543-7051 or Mardi Niles at 489-9274.

Saturday, May 13, 9:30 a.m. LPNF Pozo Wildflower Weekend and 10-Year Anniversary of the Hi Mountain Lookout Project. As part of its seventh Annual Wildflower Weekends the Santa Lucia District, Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) will meet at the Pozo Fire Station on Pozo Road, south of SR 58 at 9:30 a.m. to make carpooling arrangements for driving up to the lookout. This will be a "drive & stroll" tour of wildflowers along Hi Mountain Road, including some serpentine areas, and the Lookout Station, now a focal point of the Condor Recovery Program.

Scheduled activities in the morning include touring the lookout and visitor center facilities, enjoying the views from the coast to the snow-covered Sierra, taking a leisurely stroll along the access road astride the crest of the Santa Lucia Mountains (at over 3,000 ft. elevation), participating in volunteer work projects, practicing with condor radio tracking equipment, recording field data, and joining in training sessions for new volunteers who may be interested in helping to staff the lookout in the future.

Bring a lunch. After a picnic at the lookout, those who would like to hike down the mountain will be birding, botanizing, butterfly watching, and observing the local geology along the way as we walk the 6 miles on graded Hi Mountain Road back down to Pozo Ranger Station. This is a downhill hike nearly all the way (with one stream crossing)!

Check the Hi Mountain Lookout Project website at <www.condorlookout.org> for more details as the May 13 event approaches, and for road and driving conditions.

Please RSVP to Steve Schubert if you are planning on attending the Hi Mountain Lookout Project 10-year anniversary event, at home phone (805) 528-6138 or e-mail to s_schub@webtv.net.

Call Helen Tarbet at 925-9538 ext. 246 or Charles Blair 733-3189 for details.

Saturday, May 20, a walk on the San Simeon Boardwalk Trail with Sarah Bull, Environmental Scientist, Coastal Sector, State Parks. Meet at the SLO Vets Hall at 9:00 a.m. and at the parking lot to the ADA/Boardwalk Trail, San Simeon Day Use Area at

10:00a.m. Travel north on Hwy 1 and pass the town of Cambria and just north of Moon Stone Beach turn right at the San Simeon Day Use Area, San Simeon State Park. If you get to the San Simeon Creek bridge you have gone too far. Sarah will focus on edible, medicinal and folkloric plant uses on this approximately 3 mile hike through riparian areas, Monterey pine forests and meadows with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean and the Santa Lucia Mountains. Bring lunch, water, hat and dress in layers. For additional information call Sarah Bull at 235-6322 or Mardi Niles at 489-9274.

Field Trip Reports

CHIMINEAS RANCH

On April 8 CNPS had a hike to Carrizo Canyon. The leader was George Butterworth, naturalist at Carrizo Nature Center. We hiked up 3 canyons and then towards the Sierra Madre Ridge. I had been to the area many times (40?) during the past 45 years. I had hiked to Caliente Mt., been to Painted Rock, worked on its trail with the Chumash & celebrated the Summer Solstice there. I had kayak'd on Soda Lake.



Cottonwood Canyon

The hills and flowers are at their peak right now. The sky on Apr. 8 was dark blue because of the recent rains, the clouds like large fluffy cotton, the hills GREEN, blazes of yellow flowers (not mustards) on the hillsides, orange poppies everywhere, blue blazes of Phacelia (many species). GREEN. Dirk & experts found a rare species. I enjoy watching botanists getting all excited over a little plant---it restores my hope for Homo sapiens (man wise).

The views, the silence, the GREEN, the group of experts, EVERYTHING made this the most special trip I have ever made to this typically arid land. At 80, I have learned is what is important in life as we have too much "crap" (e.g. Bush's anti-enviro "leadership"). My elder advice to all is GO EAST YOUNG MAN (woman) to the Carrizo ASAP.

– Elder Bill

CHIMINEAS TRIP

On April 8 twelve people enjoyed splendid weather, instead of the threatened rain, for a visit to Chimineas and Hwy. 166. The first stop was Mallow Wash, where we saw Jones' bush mallow, *Astragalus trichopodus var phoxus*, and Coulter's lupine, in addition to holly-leaf red berry, blue oak, interior goldenbush, green ephedra, yucca, and scale broom.

In Yellowjacket Canyon, the next stop, we found grasses – giant wild rye, melic, needle grass, and bluegrass – as well as nightshade (*S. umbelliferum*), purple sage, purple sanicle, bush lupine, shooting stars, blue oak, and fiddleneck.

East of the chimneys of red rock, a third canyon along Hwy. 166 yielded a different set of plants. Bladderpod was abundant. We encountered some salt-tolerant things such as common saltbush and quail bush, salt grass, *Frankenia salina*, and alkali goldenbush (*Isocoma acradenia*). Then we found slopes of white, deep soil that characteristically give rise to some of the best flowers in the area: blazing star (*Mentzelia pectinata*), yellow and white pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula* and *C. stevioides*), evening primrose (*Camissonia boothii*), hillside daisies, fern-leaf phacelia, and *Coreopsis calliopsidea*. It made a perfect lunch stop. Desert needle grass also made an appearance.

Finally, we visited Cottonwood Canyon. Great vistas of yellow on the hills in front of the Sierra Madres greeted us, from the hillside daisies, goldfields, and tidy tips. Also we found red maids, valley phacelia, and *Gilia clivorum* (bird's eyes but smaller). As a grand finale, we discovered a bank with the beautiful 1B jewel flower *Caulanthus coulteri* var. *lemmonii*.

– George Butterworth

Horticulture



This month's article features a member who is new to our chapter but not new to California. Born in San Diego, Pam Thomas became interested in plants when she turned eighteen.

First focusing on indoor plants and her own backyard garden, she learned the basis concepts of horticulture. After receiving a degree in English literature from U.C. Santa Barbara she moved to Pennsylvania to take a staff job at Scotts Arboretum. While working there her interest in California native plants blossomed. She then returned to California and enrolled at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she graduated with a degree in horticulture. Her work then took her to New Zealand, Australia, the Caribbean and Boston where she was the horticulturist on staff for the New England Wildflower Society. In the spring of 2005 she returned to the central coast and started her own landscaping business. While attending a hike at Oso Flaco Lake led by Lauren Brown she met Mardi Niles and became a member of our chapter. I hope you enjoy her article and if you're looking for help in the garden please give her a call. Happy gardening. – John

Favorite Spring Perennials

By Pam Thomas

As spring returns, and the days lengthen and warm, my attention turns to spending more time outside, and planting new native plants in my garden. Here are two of my recent favorites that might be fun to try.

Epilobium (Zauchneria) cana 'Catalina'

Epilobium 'Catalina' is a cultivar of the California fuchsia introduced by the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden. This 3' tall member of the evening primrose family is best planted in winter or spring, and will reward you with copious sprays of scarlet red, to red-orange, tubular flowers in late summer and fall. Hummingbirds love the flowers, and are its major pollinator. I have seen all-day long hummingbird "traffic" visiting this plant in bloom, and this added wildlife activity contributes to the plant's charm. California fuchsia is a bit of an anomaly among California natives, because of its pattern of active growth during the summer. When the mature plant is finished blooming in autumn, it can look decidedly tatty, so cut it back to allow for next year's new growth. At this time it can also be propagated by taking divisions.

I have seen species of the California fuchsia along the west entrance road to Yosemite National Park, and also along the Big Sur coast; in both sites growing on dry, rocky slopes. In garden conditions, it grows on gentle slopes, and looks well overhanging the edges of low retaining walls, or next to rocks. The rich green, linear leaves of *Epilobium* 'Catalina' make a nice foil for its

brightly colored flowers. *Epilobium cana* 'Catalina' is just one of several California fuchsia cultivars available in the nursery trade; each will provide late season interest, and extend the blooming period of your native plant garden.

Lepechina fragrans 'El Tigre'

I have always had a fondness for members of the mint family from the genera *Salvia* and *Agastache*, and *Lepechina fragrans* 'El Tigre' attracts me for many of the same reasons: attractive tubular flowers, aromatic oils in the leaves, and an interesting foliage shape. One of the first things I notice about *Lepechina fragrans* 'El Tigre', or pitcher sage, is the alluring smell of its leaves. It reminds me of something in the tropical realm that wavers between the scent of pineapple and banana. Another feature of the plant is its lovely, lavender, tubular flowers, with lighter throats. The flower structure is like some of the large-flowered exotic salvias with extended lower lips. The flowers of pitcher sage are borne on long, graceful, pendulant racemes. The other distinctive feature of this plant are the soft, fuzzy hairs that cover its surface. In the sunlight, this pubescence resembles a fine coat of dew on the textured, sagittate leaves, and the coating is so thick on the new buds that they seem to emerge from a froth! *Lepechina fragrans* 'El Tigre' blooms in the spring, and can be pinched back to keep its shape tidy. It grows in full sun to partial shade with well drained soil. *Lepechina fragrans* 'El Tigre' can be easily propagated by taking stem cuttings and rooting in perlite.

Pam Thomas is a Horticulturist, who operates Paloma Landscaping (458-9207) out of the South County. She uses a variety of native plants and environmentally friendly techniques to manage gardens.



California State University – Chico
July 28 – August 3, 2006
www.2006.botanyconference.org/

The annual combined meeting of the Botanic Society of America, American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Taxonomists and American Bryological & Lichenological Society



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A Plant Conservation Partner - Aveda Puts Plants in the Spotlight

For the 2nd year, CNPS has been selected to be an Aveda Earth Month partner. To support their efforts, our local chapter made a short presentation to the very lively staff of the local Aveda salon in early April about California native plants.

During the month of April, Aveda hair salons and beauty spas inform their clients about environmental issues.

For the 2nd year, they are focusing on the Endangered Species Act. Clients are informed about the importance of the ESA. What does that mean?

Well, last year they submitted a petition with 225,000 client signatures in support of the ESA to President Bush, and this year their goal is 275,000 petition signatures to be presented to Congress! In addition, Aveda created a "Light The Way" candle made of 100% organic ingredients with a rose geranium aroma, for which all the proceeds from their sales go to their partners.

In case you don't know who Aveda is, they are an international personal care company that sells their own product line. They are leaders when it comes to pure flower and plant essences being an essential ingredient in their products. There are two Aveda establishments in San Luis Obispo; Salon Lux is in the new Court Street plaza downtown and a spa is located at 1907 Broad Street. With Mother's Day coming soon, consider buying Light the Way candles or another fine product for that special someone. — Linda Chipping

The California Native Plant Society is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The mission of the Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education and conservation. Membership is open to all.

Membership includes the quarterly journal, *Fremontia*, the quarterly *Bulletin*, which gives statewide news and announcements of the Society activities and conservation issues, and the chapter newsletter, *Obispoensis*.

Obispoensis is the newsletter of the San Luis Obispo Chapter of CNPS. It is published October through June except January. Items for submittal to *Obispoensis* should be sent to rhotaling@charter.net. The deadline is the 10th of each month. Botanical articles, news items, illustrations, photos, events and tidbits are welcome!

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www.cnps.org
www.cnps-slo.org

CHAPTER RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERSHIPS

Send checks to California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Current CNPS memberships are: Student or Retired \$20, Individual or Library \$35, Family or Group \$45, Supporting \$75, Plant Lover \$100, Patron \$250, Benefactor \$500. *Make checks payable to CNPS.*