

of the Southern California Botanists

Volume 19 Number 2

March-April 2010

2010 SCB Board of Directors

As a result of SCB's recent election, the following members now constitute the 2010 Board of Directors of the Southern California Botanists:

President:

Orlando Mistretta

Treasurer:

Liz Delk

VicePresident:

Erika Gardner

Members at Large:

Dave Bramlet

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Chris Barnhill

Jennifer Cogswell

Naomi Fraga

Michael Honer

Carrie Kiel

Sarah Ratay

Fred Roberts

Duncan Bell

Justin M. Wood

Benjamin Wilder

Thanks to all who voted. We are looking forward to another exciting year.

Grants Awarded

SCB Annual Grant

SCB has traditionally awarded one or two grants per year. This year SCB recently awarded two \$500 research grants. The first recipient is **Saeideh Mashayekhi**, a graduate student at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Saeideh is conducting research on Population Genetics of a Rare Plant

Species, *Allium munzii* (Alliaceae). The second recipient is **Jenny Nash** a graduate student at San Diego State University. Jenny will utilize grant funds to conduct comparative analysis of *Boecheera* for insight into interactions between thermotolerance, drought tolerance & photosynthesis for stress-specific gene evolution across diverse habitats.

Alan Romsper Grant for Desert Botany

This year, SCB is proud to make the first Alan Romsper Grant specifically for desert botanical research. This award is given to honor the memory of our long-time SCB contributor and supporter, Alan Romsper. **Sarah DeGroot** graduate student at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is this year's recipient. Sarah will conduct a Botanical exploration of the north slope of the Whipple Mountains.

Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research

This grant is awarded in memory of long-time SCB member of Susan Hobbs. It is awarded to support field research in any discipline of plant biology. **Michael Heaney**, graduate student at the University of Florida is this year's recipient. Michael will be conducting research on the Systematics, biogeography and conservation genetics of *Nolina* species of California.

Upcoming Events

Weekend Classes at RSABG

The Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden is offering a wide variety of community education classes in plant identification, horticulture, natural history, and other subjects. Classes for children are also available. Some of the upcoming courses and activities include:

March 6 (Saturday) Conifers of Southern California: Identification Workshop 9:00 am – 4:00 pm. California harbors some of the most beautiful and diverse coniferous forests in the world. These narrow-leaf evergreen trees include the redwoods, pines, firs, false hemlocks, cedars, cypresses and junipers. Many species are also extremely important for their commercial and horticultural value. Using

fresh plant material, herbarium sheets and cones, participants will learn the key characteristics of each group of conifers and will practice using plant keys in the Jepson Manual. Instructor: Lorrae Fuentes, Director of Education. Cost: \$79 (\$87 nonmember),

Limit: 15 participants, Code: 101BOT108. Call (909) 625-8767 x224 for more information.

March 7 (Sunday) Arbor Day Tree Tours

11:00 am – 3:00 pm. Celebrate the diversity of California's native trees. Take a family "tree trek" through the Garden and stop at information and activity stations along the way. There is a special native tree plant sale and a member of RSABG staff will be on hand to answer questions that will help your new tree get a healthy start. This is a fee-free event, so enjoy!. Call (909) 625-8767 x224 for more information.

Field Trips and Classes

March 20 & 21 (Saturday & Sunday) Flora of Joshua Tree National Park 8:00am – 5:00 pm (Sat.) and 7:45am – 3pm (Sun.). Learn the secret of how plants survive in one of the harshest ecosystems in the world with Allan Schoenherr, Ph.D. and author of A Natural History of California. Allan will present a general overview of botany, desert plant identification, and explain how plants have adapted to survive in a land with little rain during this two-day field class. Participants will become familiar with some of the notable plant communities of Joshua Tree National Park during the classroom session and learn the plants vital to each major ecosystem. This is a perfect class for a plant/wildflower enthusiast to learn more about the fascinating world of flora. For more details and how to register visit: http://desertinstitute.homestead.com/classes/class_list.html

April 9th-11th (Friday -Sunday) Plant Ecology of Joshua Tree National Park; Friday, April 9, 6:00 am – 9:00 pm Saturday, April 10, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Sunday, April 11, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm. Discover the remarkable adaptations characteristic of plants found in one of the hottest deserts in the world.

Stefanie Ritter, professor of biology at Copper Mountain College and Mark Wheeler, M. S., will unfold the story of plant resilience and perseverance in an environment of heat, wind, and sand in this three-day field class in Joshua Tree National Park. Participants will learn basic taxonomy in the classroom then use the lessons to identify plant characteristics in the field. This class will focus on how species adapt in response to the pressures of climate, topography, and competition. Please join us for a weekend immersed in the world of plants! Visit the website to register and for further details: http://desertinstitute.homestead.com/classes/class_list.html

April 12 & 13 Whitewater Bioblitz. Please join the Southern California Botanists, the San Bernardino National Forest, and The Wildlands Conservancy for a Bio Blitz in the Whitewater Canyon watershed on the southeastern flank of the San Bernardino Mountains. Survey teams will assemble for two days to document and map the flora and fauna of this diverse region, where montane, inland, and desert species come together. Refer to the website (<http://www.socalbot.org/trips.php>) for further details or contact either Gina Richmond (grichmond@fs.fed.us) or Kerry Myers (kerrymyers@fs.fed.us).

April 9th at 7:00pm through April 11th at 3:00pm (Friday-Sunday) Botanical illustration of native desert flora at the Desert Studies Center, Mojave National Preserve, Zzyzx, CA. 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. As much a course in "art for botanists" as "botany for artists!" At the height of the desert blooming period, participants can look for some very exciting plein-aire drawing and watercolor painting. Look forward to basics of line control, proportion, color, focusing/perception skills as they relate to plant identification. Also detailed dissection work in a well equipped lab! The Zzyzx Center is located within the Preserve at Soda Springs (Zzyzx), about a three-hour drive from Riverside. The course fee includes two nights' lodging at the Center (dormitory rooms & some couples rooms), and meals starting with breakfast Saturday through lunch on Sunday. Upon enrollment, participants will be sent information about the Center and what to bring with them. Fee: \$325 / \$305 each for couples and family members / \$295 each with PINE discount, REG # 094-SCF-F60, (credit & non

credit). Instructor: Donald Davidson, <http://www.nps.gov/plants/cw/watercolor/index.htm>. To register, visit www.extension.ucr.edu or call 951-827-4105.

Other Events

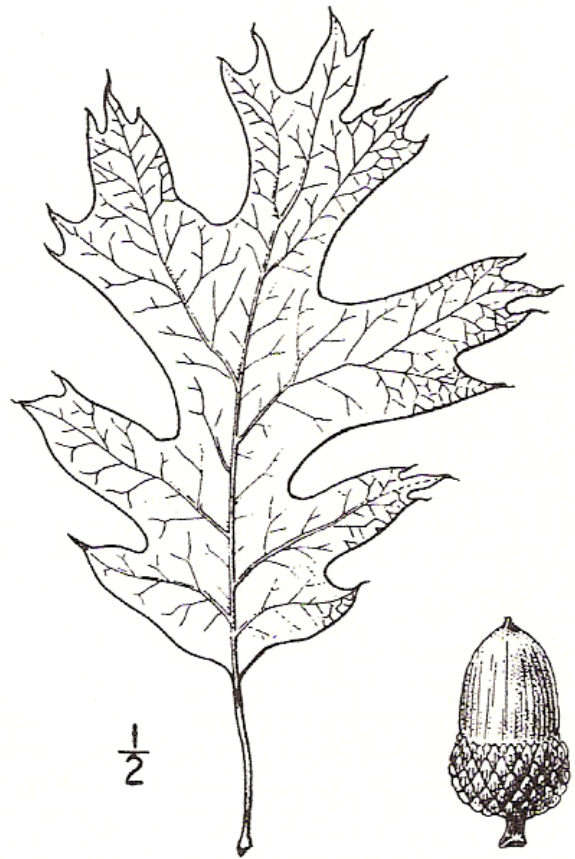
The **24th Annual DESERT SYMPOSIUM** will be held in April 2010 at California State University's Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx, on the shores of Soda Lake south of Interstate 15 between Barstow and Baker, California. The symposium features current research on archaeology, anthropology, paleontology, geology, ecology, biological sciences, and environmental issues. Abstracts of the proceedings and a field trip guide will be published. Abstracts, papers and Field Guides from the 2001 - 2009 Desert Symposiums are available (see above). For information contact Dr. William Presch, wpresch@fullerton.edu.

California Black Oak

The California black oak *Quercus kelloggii* is a deciduous hardwood tree; it is a member of the Beech family, Fagaceae. Black oaks are typically found growing in the foothills and mountains to about 8000 feet. They have a broad crown with multiple stems that fork repeatedly. Young trees have smooth dark gray bark; the bark on older trees is rough and furrowed with small plates and ridges.

The lobed leaves are bristle-tipped; in the summer, the leaves are bright green and glossy above, paler green and often hairy beneath. In autumn the leaves exhibit yellow-gold colors. Mature trees produce acorns every two years; acorns were used extensively by Native Americans for food. Shelled acorns were ground into a meal and soaked in water to remove the bitter tannic acid. Oaks are also a critical species for wildlife, providing food and cover. California black oaks re-sprout profusely after the trees are cut or burned.

Roberts, F.M. Jr. *The Oaks of the Southern Californian Floristic Province*. Encinitas: F.M. Roberts Publications, 1



Quercus kelloggii Newb.
California black oak

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Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States, Stanford Univ. Press

Information to be included in the next issue of LEAFLETS (Vol. 19, No.2) should be sent to the editor by June 20, 2010. Please email material to kerrymyers@fs.fed.us, or mail to:

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