



of the Southern California Botanists

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Photo credit:
Nina House



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy Southern California Botanists,

I hope your spring and summer have been filled with botanical adventures and exploration. Although summer is still hanging on, I'm already looking forward to fall. Bring on the coffee cake, pumpkin spice lattes, and Michael Bublé playlists! From a botanical perspective, I'm especially curious to see what this El Niño winter may bring and I'm already planning my winter botanical outings!

We have big dreams about the future

of our social media presence. In addition to our regular event announcements, we hope to become more active on social media and share more of our field observations and botanical discoveries with you throughout the year. We're also planning to announce a student social media position soon, so keep an eye out if you're interested in helping us grow our online presence.

I'm happy to report that we had a successful season of field trips this spring, and we're grateful to everyone who participated. We also hosted a table at UCLA's Clarkia Festival, which was both an honor and a wonderful opportunity to connect with the broader botanical community. We shared information about

SCB programs and initiatives and even brought along our "mobile field lab" so that folks could take up close looks at a variety of plant specimens - it was a big hit! Events like these help us showcase the work we do, connect with new audiences, and continue growing the SCB community. We hope to do more in the future.

And finally, have you seen the Save the Date announcement for our Annual Symposium? Mark your calendars for November 7! This year's theme is Urban Botany, with a focus on the diversity, ecology, conservation, and restoration of plants and habitats in urban environments.

The program will feature an outstanding lineup of speakers and presentations on topics including native landscape restoration, urban biodiversity, conservation of rare species and habitats, the ecology of urban gardens, bryophytes, urban canyon flora, and community science efforts that deepen our understanding of urban plant communities. Trust me, you won't want to miss it!

We're also excited to share a major change this year: both the symposium and the evening mixer will be held at the California Botanic Garden, creating a flow between the two events that we are so excited about. Yes, the event will be fully outdoors but we're working through the technology updates we'll need to make the event a success.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Diana Brand Ramirez
2026-2027 SCB President



2026 SYMPOSIUM SAVE THE DATE



Where Cities Bloom: The Future of Urban Botany in Southern California

Saturday November 7, 2026

Location: California Botanic Garden

Speakers:

Aaron Eckles
Matt Guiliams
Lila Higgins
Darryl Jennerette
Emma Kemp
Noriko Smallwood
Jon Rebman
Jen Toy
Neil Uleman

The 52nd annual Southern California Botanists symposium will explore how California's native plant diversity intersects with southern California's built environments, focusing on conserving and restoring native landscapes in urban areas, biodiversity in city gardens, documenting biodiversity in the wildland-urban interface, and more. Join us for what is guaranteed to be another interesting symposium!

More details and event registration coming soon!

<https://socalbot.org/symposia/>

T-SHIRT CONTEST

We are holding a t-shirt design contest, with the winner's artwork being featured on our symposium t-shirt! This is your chance to showcase your artistic skills and show what urban botany means to you! The winning design will be showcased on t-shirts for sale at the symposium.

Here are the details: **1)** one entry per person; **2)** an original color line drawing only - no AI images; **3)** include the symposium's title in the design; **4)** submit as .jpg or .pdf format; **5)** filename "Designer first name_last name_date"; **6)** deadline for submittals is September 14, 2026; and **7)** send submittals to bcproctor@ucla.edu

The contest winner will receive a free t-shirt with their design!



The 2023 winning t-shirt design, by Peri-Lee Pipkin.

2026 FIELD TRIP REPORT

SCB took several field trips this year, including one to the Palos Verdes Peninsula (led by Niel Uelman) and one to San Jacinto Mountains (led by Scott White).

The Palos Verdes Peninsula is situated on the southwestern edge of Los Angeles County and extends into the Pacific Ocean from the mainland. It is a mixture of suburban communities and open space. It is known for its scenic coastline, island history, and remnant patches of native plant communities, including coastal sage, willow riparian, back dune, coastal bluff scrub, grassland, and chaparral. Participants enjoyed being led through these incredible habitats with Niel Uhleman!



Picture captions: (top) Group photo from the Palos Verdes Peninsula field trip, including trip participants and instructor. **(bottom)** Niel Uelman teaching attendees about the Palos Verdes flora.

The San Jacinto and Santa Rosa mountains are sky islands at the northern end of the Peninsular Ranges. Scott White was the fearless leader, joined by 12 intrepid botanists and one plucky little parrot at the Cedar Springs trailhead on a warm summer day. They started off among elegant redshanks (*Adenostoma sparsifolium*), hiking up the Pacific Crest Trail through a diverse range of plant communities, and ending at a ridgeline where they were able to enjoy views of the 'desert divide'. Scott's good humor, tranquility and deep botanical expertise were deeply appreciated by all. The group's interest and cheerful energy made for a very fun day!



Picture captions: (top left) Pretty Phoenix perched upon the PCT. **(top right)** Munz's Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus palmeri* var. *munzii*) CRPR 1B.2 **(bottom)** Scott White talking about oak identification.



CROSSOSOMA: CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS!

Crossosoma serves as the esteemed scientific journal of the Southern California Botanists. We invite contributions that illuminate the flora of Southern California and its adjacent, floristically intertwined realms. We seek subject matter such as ecological, taxonomic, floristic, or horticultural studies of both vascular and non-vascular plants, as well as informal notes, observations, and opinion pieces.

If you are interested in submitting content or are uncertain about the suitability, please inquire with the editors (editor (at) socalbot.org) and visit our website (<https://socalbot.org/crossosoma/>) for more information.

What's in Bloom?

Showcasing the beauty of California's native flora.



Adenostoma fasciculatum (Chamise)

Rosaceae

San Diego County, July 2026

Photo Credit: Marisol Sanchez

PREVIOUS GRANT WINNER PUBLICATIONS!

Nina House, currently Managing Editor of the *Jepson eFlora* and a Coordinator for the *Jepson Workshop Program* at the University and Jepson Herbaria, received funding from Southern California Botanists in 2019 (Annual Grant) and in 2020 (Susan Hobbs Grant for Field Research) for her master's thesis research. Her work, a vascular flora of two watersheds in the southern Sierra Nevada, was published in the scientific journal *Aliso* in May 2026.

While literature published in *Aliso* is on embargo for the first year, the paper can be accessed through Nina's [ResearchGate](#) or upon request (ninahouse@berkeley.edu).

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A VASCULAR FLORA OF THE MANTER AND SALMON CREEK WATERSHEDS, TULARE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

NINA M. HOUSE¹

California Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, California 91711 (ninamhouse2@gmail.com);

¹*Current address: University and Jepson Herbaria, 1001 Valley Life Sciences Building #2465, University of California, Berkeley, California 94720*

Please consider donating to support the Grants Program!

The grants are supported by revenue generated by the silent auction at the annual symposium, donations, and the general funds of the SCB. Please assist us in maintaining this tradition by donating to support our grant program.

Do you have something to contribute to Leaflets?

We like short informal articles, notes, sketches, & photographs.

Send emails to the Editor:
ninahouse@berkeley.edu

To submit scientific articles for publication in *Crossosoma*, send emails to
editor@socalbot.org

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