

# Field Notes

Occasional Ramblings for Volunteers and Friends of the Sedgwick Reserve

December 2005

## Thanksgiving Party

By Andy Lentz



*For those who were there, you know, and for those who weren't —you really missed it.*

43 members of the Sedgwick family joined on Thanksgiving day for dinner at the studio. Mike put a turkey in the oven, Steve brought one to BBQ and Barbara brought a ham. Everyone else contributed wonderful treats which added to the success of the day.

All this was in response to a request from Barbara to help entertain the 10 student volunteers from Australia and New Zealand who were here over the Thanksgiving holiday.

We dug out all the plates and cutlery that could be found on the reserve, Ginger decorated the tables, the food was laid out, the wine was opened, and the party began. Mike welcomed all, and a representative of the Student Volunteers thanked us for the hospitality and introduction to our Thanksgiving tradition. Best of all, the Student Volunteers did the dishes.

Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Barbara for organizing the party.

# Cuttings from the Nursery

By Steve Schultz



**Botanic Name:** *Epilobium canum*  
**Common Name:** California Fuchsia, Hummingbird Trumpet  
**Family:** Onagraceae

The Onagraceae family consists of 17 Genera and about 675 Species found primarily in North America. The main characteristic of the Onagraceae Family is showy flowers. Family members include Clarkia, Fire-Weed and Evening Primrose.

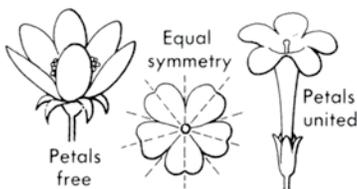
*Epilobium canum* is a thin stemmed, slightly woody, multi branched herbaceous perennial. The leaves are lanceolate to linear lanceolate, 1 to 2 inches long, medium green to grey green and sometimes reddish; with dentate margins, glandular pubescent and often fascicled. The lower leaves are generally opposite with the upper leaves mostly alternate. The flowers are scarlet red, alternate, 1 to 1 ½ inches long, tubular funnellform in shape on short axillary stems. The four cleft petals are fused at the base just above the inferior ovary with eight stamens and a single exserted pistil. The seeds are black, 1/16 inch in diameter contained in a four chambered pod 1 to 1 1/2 inches long.



Lance

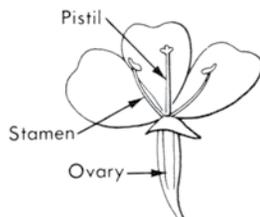
The California fuchsia is common in many of the dry habitats from sea level to 10,000 feet and from San Diego County to central Oregon. It tolerates soil types from rocky slopes to marine clay, temperatures down to 10 degrees F. California fuchsia prefers full sun to partial shade and requires little to no supplemental irrigation and can withstand long periods of drought. The late summer and fall blooming cycle provides a key food source for butterfly and hummingbird.

In landscape use, the California fuchsia makes an ideal ground cover for erosive slopes or as a floral accent in the garden. The low mounding shape; 1 to 2 feet tall and a 3 to 5 foot spread, fine texture and grey-green color can add contrast to a cactus/rock garden or fiery color to any flower garden.



REGULAR-SHAPED FLOWERS

All petals of same size and shape.  
 Flower can be divided at many places to obtain equal mirror halves.



INFERIOR OVARY POSITION

Sepals, petals, stamens attached on top of ovary.



## Bird Walks

Fred Makatanz



### The American Kestrel

The American Kestrel, formerly the Sparrow Hawk, is the smallest and most numerous of the North American Falcons. At Sedgwick Reserve this dove-sized falcon is usually seen on high wires, frequently bobbing its tail. The male has long, pointed, blue-gray wings, and a long rufous tail with a black band near the end. The female, slightly larger than the male, has a darkly barred rufous back and tail. Both sexes have a double black moustache across a white face and a curved, toothed bill. A tooth in the upper mandible enables these birds to sever the spinal cord of small birds and rodents. Recent research suggests that kestrels can see in the ultra-violet portion of the spectrum, thus allowing them to monitor the UV-irradiated urine trails of mice on a meadow or hillside.

Inhabiting open areas, kestrels hunt mostly from perches. If perches are unavailable, they hover in order to find small mammals, reptiles and large insects. They also capture insects and small birds in flight.

The kestrel is a cavity nester, laying 4-6 eggs. The female tends the young at first, and the male brings food. After two weeks the female also hunts. The young are fledged in about 30 days.



## K.I.N

By Susan Brooks

Kids in Nature (KIN) is a 9-month program for under served 4th—6th grade students in northern Santa Barbara county. The program's goals are to excite students about science, teach them to care about the environment, and encourage them to attend college.



KIN enters its 5th year, hosting 100 5th grade students from Santa Ynez Elementary School, Arellanes and Ontiveros Elementary Schools in the Santa Maria-Bonita District, and Olga Reed Elementary School in Los Alamos. We are 15 teaching docents and 20 student groups. KIN teachers from Santa Ynez, Arellanes, and Ontiveros are returning and Olga Reed is new to the program.

We have a new area designated for restoration. It is a beautiful location along the Figueroa creek, directly east of the director's home. On their last field trip, students planted native grasses, grey pine, acorns, long stemmed buckwheat and California fuschia. There is a new path down to the creek which would be great for exploring. Next time you are out at the reserve, come take a look!



# THE PUBLIC HIKES

Nick Di Croce

*If one will go as far as he can see,  
he will be able to see farther when he gets there.*

Anon.

And the more you hike at Sedgwick, the more you will see – like the brilliantly colored sycamores in the dry stream bed, the smell of sage on the trails, and the beautiful vistas all around us.

Quite a few folks have taken us up on the monthly public hikes that recently started. The first set of hikes in October were fully subscribed and had a waiting list. The latest hikes in December were not as heavily subscribed, as is customary during the Christmas Crush, but the air was crisp, the skies clear and a few California Poppies were spotted by some of the more alert hikers.

We have had nice press coverage for the hikes, particularly two articles in the Santa Barbara News-Press' Valley Living publication. A recent article in Santa Barbara Seasons magazine about "Enchanted Sedgwick" will certainly help get the word out.

Weather permitting, we will continue to run the public hikes the second Saturday each month through May. Come join us.

## Newsletter Notes

This is the first attempt to get the newsletter back into production after a too long period of silence. We are hoping to send this out via email so the cost of mailing can be kept at a minimum. If you want to get a photocopy please let Barbara know. (Photocopies will not have the great color photos!)

This is your newsletter — let me know what you would like to see, and we will try to include it. I hope to feature a plant and a bird each issue so we can refresh the knowledge we got in the great training classes. I also hope to have a research topic covered in each issue so we can become familiar with the projects that are currently on the Reserve.

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## Calendar

- January 6 -- Docent Training. TBA  
January 11 - January 24—Second round of ISV students to descend on the reserve. Mike will be calling upon volunteers this time. Or not.  
January 13 --Docent Training—Paul Collins SBMNH (mammals)  
January 18 -- KIN visit to UCSB — Olga Reed School  
January 19 - KIN visit to UCSB -- Santa Ynez School  
January 20 --Docent Training Michael Glassow (anthropology)  
January 24 -- KIN visit to UCSB - Ontiveros  
January 25 -- KIN visit to UCSB - Arellanes  
January 27 — Docent Training—Michael Caterino (SBMNH) (insects)  
January 31 --Santa Ynez Charter School field trip -- 3rd grade

## Letters

*Here is an email from one of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps students who came the first year and then again last year. Sounds like we are having a positive impact!*

Hello Mike,

This is Karla Fernandez, one of the CCI/LACC interns from this past summer and the one before. I found your business card and decided to email to say "Hello". How is Sedgwick doing? I can tell you that all of the interns I still speak to miss it so much. We do cherish the days we spent as residents there. I'm currently taking an AP Environmental Science class, and I think it's so wonderful that I have the highest grade in the class, and know things beforehand. I don't have to sit through lectures as confused as my classmates because of all the things I learned at UCSB. I'm really learning so much in my AP class. I think if I went back to UCSB I could probably teach younger kids some things I didn't know at the time,  
haha..

Karla Fernandez