

Since 1974, the Chapter has recognized members who have made a commitment to advance the work of CNPS with the presentation of the Hoover Award at the Annual Banquet. At the January Annual Banquet Larry Vierheilg was given the Hoover Award.

The list of Larry's accomplishments is impressive:

Larry Vierheilg joined the Orange County Chapter of the CNPS in 1986. His wife, Laurie, and he served on the Board for six years. He volunteered as Naturalist for O.C. Parks at the Aliso and Wood Canyons Regional Park, assisting in the set-up and operation of the nature center and leading many CNPS sponsored field trips in the park to the many varied areas.

After retiring from the aerospace industry, Larry moved to Nipomo in 1996, joined the Nipomo Native Garden, and was elected president 1998. He also worked in the dunes as a member of Dunes Forum, Dunes Collaborative and People for Nipomo Dunes. He worked with the Land Conservancy of SLO County to identify and preserve special places in the Nipomo area. For over two years Larry wrote monthly native plant gardening articles for the Adobe Press; subsequently he donated them to the SLO Chapter for publication in the *Obispoensis*.

Working in the conservation area he received a permit from CDF&G and USF&WS for Nipomo Native Garden as a recovery site for marsh sandwort, *Arenaria paludicola* and Gambel's watercress, *Rorippa gambelii*.

With Nipomo Native Garden board members Charlie Gulyash and Cindy Jelinek, they secured grant of Unocal oil spill monies from the Coastal Conservancy and CDF&G for restoration projects in NNG.

With permission of developer Greg Nester, he rescued hundreds of native plants from the corner of Pomeroy and Willow (Ceanothus Corner) for use by the community.

He is CNPS representative to the Oceano/Halcyon Advisory Committee.

Larry worked with developer Jon Martin and Connie Rutherford of USF&WS in locating and establishing permanent preserve at Knollwood Estates development for the endemic population of Pismo clarkia, *Clarkia speciosa ssp. immaculata* at Knollwood.

For his contributions to CNPS Larry is very deserving of this award.