



BIOSPHERE

The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

- **Student Awards** — Graduate student Christopher Bowman-Prideaux (advisor Dr. Schiffman) received a fellowship from the California Mediterranean Research Learning Center (National Parks Service) for his research on the “*Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on the Metapopulation Dynamics and Population Characteristics of Astragalus brauntonii*”
- **CSUN Tree Walk** — The Fall installment of the 2008 CSUN-al Gardening Series is scheduled for Saturday September 27 (registration begins August 27). Environmental Horticulturalist, Don Hodel, will give a brief introduction to tree characteristics and then lead a tour of some of CSUN's specimen trees. Along the way he will discuss tree features that make them suitable (or unsuitable) for the average residential landscape, as well as point out notable examples of tree culture. To register, email botanicgarden@csun.edu, on or after August 27. This class is free, but registration is required due to limitations on group size
- **Conferences** — Members of Dr. Maria Elena Zavala’s Lab travelled to Merida, Mexico this summer to participate in the joint Mexico and US meeting of Plant Biologists. Attending were Raghed Alrabadi, Jessica Diaz, Laura Feucht and Dr. Zavala. Laura and Raghed both presented posters that were well received
- **Faculty Professional Service** — Dr. Maria Elena Zavala has been appointed to head the Minority Affairs Committee of the American Society of Plant Biologists • Dr. Steve Oppenheimer has been invited to serve on a National Science Foundation Grant Review Panel on Disease Detection and Screening