



CNPS Channel Islands May 2024 Newsletter

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom

Alejandro Lemus
of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
will discuss
Native Plants for the Landscape

[ZOOM LINK](#)



As we move into a warmer time of year, now is the time to consider removing that lawn and planning the native plant garden of your dreams. It's time to phase out that lawn and welcome native plant habitat. Learn about Alejandro's favorite native plants for creating habitat for insect friends and cheerful birds. Looking for native plants made of steel? Alejandro has got you covered. Looking for native plants that will bloom year-round? Alejandro has a trick or two. Looking for ways to keep that woolly blue curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) happy? Alejandro also has the same question, but is excited to put our heads together to talk and have fun with native plant horticulture!

Alejandro Lemus holds a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from the University of California, Los Angeles. After graduating in 2018, Alejandro worked as a stewardship technician on the Palos Verdes Peninsula down in Los Angeles County working on habitat restoration and conservation projects. After discovering a love for the native plant nursery and propagation, Alejandro spent years working at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants, a non-profit retail nursery and education center. During his time there, Alejandro worked in the nursery educating the public on the benefits of native plant gardening, served as an instructor for the California Native Plant Landscaper Certification, and propagated plants for the retail nursery, living collections, and contracts. Currently, Alejandro works at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden as the Horticultural Educator. In this role, Alejandro is excited to continue sharing his love for California's diverse flora and empowering landscapers to work with native plants.

May Botany Hike/Tour

**Grasslands at 1) San Marcos Foothills Preserve & 2) a Gated Community
Santa Barbara County**

Saturday, May 4, 2024

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Leader: Dale Parks

RSVP Required: This hike is limited to 15 people. Please RSVP by text or call to (805)794-5334. If there are any changes of the day, time, or location(s) of the hike for any reason, we will let you know.

Habitat restoration specialist Dale Parks will lead us on a two-part easy hiking tour of foothill grasslands south of San Marcos Pass, Santa Barbara. The two stops are, first, San Marcos Foothills Preserve, and second, a gated community with an 11-acre mitigation site at 4648 Via Clarice, almost 3 miles northwest of the first stop. Native grasses, primarily *Stipa pulchra* (purple needle grass), can be found at the two featured locations more than at other sites dominated by non-native, invasive annual grasses such as in the genus *Avena* (oats) and most of the genus *Bromus* (brome). We may also see some eye-catching spring wildflowers including the native *Bloomeria crocea* var. *crocea* (common goldenstar). Bring water and wear lug-soled boots/shoes. Sunscreen is advised. **There will be no restrooms. No dogs please.**

Directions: 1) The first stop will be at the San Marcos Foothills Preserve. From the 101 Freeway, take the Hwy. 154 (San Marcos Pass) exit. Exit at Cathedral Oaks Road and turn left. Turn right on Via Chaparral. After half a block, on your right you will see a bridge (Salvar Rd.) over Hwy. 154 to cross. Turn left on Via Gaitero and find parking along the road near the dead end. The address of San Marcos Foothills Preserve is 1083 Via Gaitero, Santa Barbara, CA 93105. Meet at the Preserve entrance. 2) The second stop is at 4648 Via Clarice, Santa Barbara, CA 93111 (at the end of a cul-de-sac), a gated community. To get there, return onto Hwy. 154, go northwest (towards San Marcos Pass and Lake Cachuma), exit at San Antonio Creek Rd. and turn left. Proceed to Via Clarice, turn right, and continue until you reach the cul-de-sac. Park and meet there.

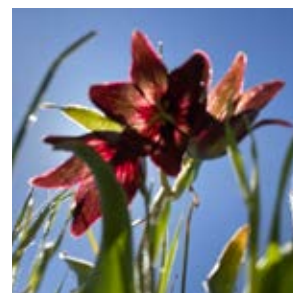
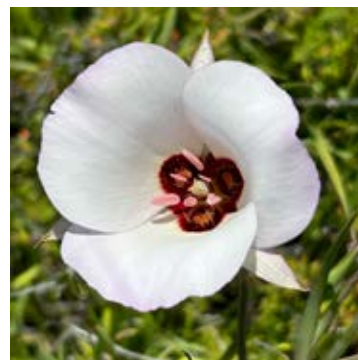


Bloomeria crocea—Carolyn Warren.



Figueroa Mountain Hike Recap

A big thanks to Andrea Adams-Morden for leading us on a wonderful hike to Figueroa Mountain on April 12 (rescheduled due to rain on April 13). Nine lucky participants looked at plants in high elevation meadows (shooting stars and chocolate lilies), serpentine barrens (crinkled onion, Bigelow's coreopsis, red skin onion, Catalina mariposa lily), and oak woodland (white collinsia, johnny jump ups, and lots of clovers). And let's not forget the wall of lupine—a true showstopper! *Photos by Carolyn Warren, Andrea Adams-Morden & Ellen Dean*



Plant Sale/ Wildflower & Weed Show Recap

Our Spring Plant Sale was a huge success. Thank you to all who purchased plants both online and in-person. And a special thanks to all of our volunteers. It was fun to chat it up with folks about all things native plants. Many took advantage of the New Membership deal (\$30 instead of \$50) AND received 10% off their plants. As always our magazine, stickers and wildflower seed give-a-ways were very popular!

Our third annual Wildflower and Weed show was enjoyed by all who attended, and we received many positive comments! It was held at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula on the last day of Native Plant Week (April 20). It is a joint effort of the organizations in the Weed Management Area of Ventura County and spearheaded by Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer John Beall. We estimated nearly 400 attendees with 120 people at the talk on edible plants given by Antonio Sanchez. Everyone enjoyed the tours of the native plant garden given by the Master Gardeners, pollinator booth, iNaturalist trainings, and kids activities. There was even a native/non-native plant quiz. Thank you to everyone who helped us produce this event, and a special thanks to the Agriculture Museum.



Outreach News

On **May 18** CNPSCI will join the Second Annual Pollinator Palooza in Ventura. We will have activities for kids of all ages, seeds, plants, stickers and more to share.

10AM-2PM

Barranca Vista Park

7050 Ralston Street, Ventura

Outreach Recap

On April 3, Terri spoke to an enthusiastic group of Rotarians in Camarillo about CNPS, CNPSCI, local endemic plants and the importance, ease and joy of gardening with native plants. Feedback was robust and several folks showed up at our Plant Sale/Wildflower and Weed show! We also tabled at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Rewild Garden Tour on April 27th. A lot of people were interested in native plants and the beautiful gardens that they toured throughout Ojai. We gave away magazines and tons of seed packets!

A vibrant purple poster for the 2nd Annual Pollinator Palooza. The text is in white and yellow. It features a large, colorful illustration of a butterfly with floral patterns on its wings. The event is described as family-friendly and free. The date is May 18, 2024, from 10AM to 2PM at Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston Street. A list of activities includes arts & crafts, educational booths, a garden tour, learning about native plants and pollinators, and a pollinator parade.

2nd Annual A Family-friendly event!

Pollinator Palooza

SATURDAY FREE

MAY 18 2024

10AM-2PM
Barranca Vista Park
7050 Ralston Street

- Enjoy arts & crafts activities.
- Explore educational booths.
- Tour the Cornucopia Garden.
- Learn about native plants & pollinators.
- Come dressed up for the Pollinator Parade!

Plant of the Month

Bush Poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*)



Dendromecon rigida—Carolyn Warren.

Bush Poppy (*Dendromecon rigida*) is an attractive compact shrub native to California and Baja California. It is covered in petite, buttercup-like yellow flowers during the winter-spring blooming season. Bush Poppy is a fast-growing shrub that maintains a rounded form with light pruning. The Bush Poppy's narrow, grayish-green leaves are evergreen, providing year-round color in the landscape, even when not in bloom.

This plant is robust and easy to grow when planted in the right dry, sunny conditions. It is commonly found on dry, rocky slopes and is known to be a fire-following plant. In the garden, it does best when planted in full sun in very well-draining soil. The Bush Poppy needs little to no supplemental irrigation once it is established, making it an appealing choice for a waterwise garden. *Text courtesy of calscape.org.*

“Hot Spots” for Spring Wildflower Viewing

Ventura County

- Chumash Trail off of Highway 1, Point Mugu State Park
- Gridley Trail, Ojai, Los Padres National Forest
- Grotto Trail off of Yerba Buena Road, SMMNRA
- Harmon Canyon off of Foothill Road, Ventura
- Lake Eleanor Open Space, Westlake
- Mishe Mokwa Trail off of Yerba Buena Road, SMMNRA
- Rancho Sierra Vista-Satwiwa off of Potrero/Lynn Road, SMMNRA
- Sisar Canyon off of Highway 150, Los Padres National Forest
- Ventura Botanical Gardens off of Poli Street, California Section (fee)
- Wheeler Gorge Nature Trail off of Highway 33, Los Padres NF
- Wildwood Park, Thousand Oaks
- Wills Canyon, Ventura River Preserve, Meiners Oaks

San Luis Obispo County

- Carrizo Plain National Monument south of Hwy 58
- Fiscalini Ranch Preserve, Cambria, off of Highway 1
- Shell Creek off of Highway 58

Santa Barbara County:

- Aliso Loop Nature Trail (when accessible) off of Paradise Road
- Figueroa Mountain (north of Santa Ynez Valley)
- Franklin Trail, Carpinteria
- Lover's Loop Trail, Los Olivos, off of Figueroa Mountain Road
- San Ysidro Trail off of Hwy. 192, Montecito
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden off of Mission Canyon Road (fee)

Los Angeles County:

- Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve SNR off of Lancaster Road (parking fee)
- King Gillette Ranch, Las Virgenes Road & Mulholland Highway, SMMNR
- Malibu Creek State Park off of Las Virgenes Road
- Paramount Ranch off of Cornell Road, Agoura, SMMNRA
- Pentachaeta Trail, Westlake
- Tejon Ranch (permission required)

CNPS-SLO Workshop: Plant Identification in the Field

More spaces now available - register now!

Sunday, May 5, 2024, 9:30-am-2pm

Johnson Ranch Open Space, San Luis Obispo 93060

**Plant Identification
In The Field: 2024**

- ◆ Presented by CNPS-SLO
- ◆ Identify flowering plants using the *Vascular Plants of SLO County*
- ◆ Improve your plant keying skills

**MORE SPACES
NOW AVAILABLE!**

Sunday, May 5, 2024
9:30 am – 2:00 pm
Johnson Ranch Open
Space, San Luis Obispo

Local botanists Kristen Nelson and Dena Grossenbacher will lead a field workshop aimed at helping biologists improve their plant keying skills. Participants will key plants in the field to family, genus and species using the new edition of the Flora of San Luis Obispo County, California (FSLOC), by Dr. David Keil. This is an intermediate-level workshop — working knowledge of plant terminology and dichotomous keys are prerequisites.

Advance registration required, \$35, beginning in mid-March, via cnpslo.org (All Calendar Events). The website will have more information about the class, pre-requisites, logistics, and contacts.



Weed Management

There will be a demonstration by Weedtechnics on May 7th at Growing Works Nursery in Camarillo from 10-11am. Those interested should contact Jenn Rodriguez at [Growing Works](http://growingworks.com).

Sisar Canyon Weeding Group

In an effort to manage the mustard, oxalis, horehound and other invasive plants, a weeding group for Sisar Canyon Trail in the upper Ojai Valley has been started. We have met twice and are making some headway. If you are interested in lending a hand and couple hours here and there, please [email Carolyn](mailto:carolyn@sisarcanyon.com). There is no set schedule but Thursday mornings seem to work for now.

Mark Your Calendars

- June 1: Arroyo Hondo Preserve Hike, Santa Barbara County, \$10 per person to Preserve Manager at time of hike. Must RSVP when this goes on the website.