



Erysimum menziesii

# The Wallflower

The Newsletter of the California Native Plant Society  
Monterey Bay Chapter

<http://montereybay.cnps.org>

March 2012

## Decorated Trees

(an adventure with plant galls)

General Meeting Speaker: Ron Russo

Plant galls are among nature's most unique phenomena largely because of the intimate relationship with insects that has evolved over millions of years. While several dozen plants in the Monterey area support fascinating galls, trees, especially oaks, exhibit some of the wildest looking and most brilliantly colored galls of any in the world. We will explore this little know world and discover shapes that mimic sea urchins, cups, golf balls saucers, and clubs among others.

Participants will also see how oaks support more than 200 species of tiny gall wasps and are crucial to the biodiversity of Monterey County. After this program, oak trees will never look the same.

*Ron Russo is the retired Chief Naturalist of the East Bay Regional Park District in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, a long-time member of CNPS and contributor to Fremontia and the author of A Field Guide to Plant Galls of California and other Western States, as well as seven other field guides and over 37 articles/papers in the natural sciences. He now resides in Bellingham, Washington where he is continuing his research and writing.*

## General Meeting • Thursday, March 8

Visiting & Book Purchasing from 7:00pm  
Meeting and Program Begin at 7:30pm

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History



### CALENDAR of FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Saturday, March 3, 1pm to 4pm Restoration  
Broom Bash, East Side of Pt. Lobos State Reserve

Join us on these First Saturdays of the month in the beautiful Monterey pine forest of East Point Lobos. We'll use several techniques to remove French broom and help restore this area that wants to thrive with native plants. Meet in Carmel at the Rio Road Park n' Ride. All supplies pro-

vided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack. Contact Bruce Delgado at 277-7690 or bdelgado62@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday March 18, 9:00am Field Trip  
Sensational Spring flowers at Marks Ranch

Welcome Spring with a hike into Marks Ranch with Gordon Williams. Our morning begins with a walk over a cattle grazed plain where a few hardy plants will be blooming. For lunch, we will climb a ridge where there should be a nice display of early spring flowers. The remainder of our field trip will be determined by wherever the wildflowers are; we hope to see at least 50 different species! Bring water and lunch. Meet at the gate located 300 yards down the frontage road from the Toro Park Entrance off of Hwy. 68 on Portola Drive exit. The Marks Ranch gate will be unlocked at 9:00 and relocked after the last car has gone through. If you plan to leave early, park your car outside the gate and expect to climb the gate when you leave. About 4-5 hours, 5.5 miles and 600 feet total elevation gain. Leader, Gordon Williams 372-6374.

Sunday, March 18, 11am to 2pm Restoration  
Soberanes Creek Cape Ivy Bash

Here Soberanes Creek falls into the ocean and needs our help continuing to remove various invasive weeds, primarily Cape ivy. On these Third Sundays, meet in Carmel at the Rio Rd. Park n' Ride to carpool (across from the Chevron gas station). All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack. Contact Bruce Delgado at 277-7690 or bdelgado62@gmail.com for more information.

*Calendar of Field Trips & Events Continued on Page 3*

## Save the Date!

### 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Wildflower Show!

April 20 (Fri) • April 21 • (Sat) • April 22 (Sun)  
10:00am to 5:00pm each day

at the  
**Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History**

**Pebble Beach Development DEIR:** Chapter comments on the build-out proposed by Pebble Beach Co. urged modification of the housing proposed immediately above the Indian Village plant reserve for protection of Hickman's *Potentilla*. The homes are situated so that run-off could adversely affect the endangered plant. The chapter also emphasized strict enforcement of conditions to protect and restore Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) which receive strong protection under the Coastal Act. In addition, the letter urged that the loss of some 7000 Monterey pines to development be further mitigated by dedication to Jacks Peak Park of property owned by PBCo. adjoining the park.

**Whispering Oaks:** Thanks to a successful referendum on the Board of Supervisors' approval of this project, the Board decided at its Jan 24 meeting to rescind its rezoning of the huge and destructive conversion of oak woodland at Fort Ord. CNPS along with a large number of the public, urged the Board to rescind and look more closely at several alternative proposals to site development in blighted areas of Ftort Ord instead of its native oak woodlands.

**Monterey Downs:** Also threatening recreation and natural habitat areas at Fort Ord, this huge project proposes a 200-room hotel, 1400 housing units, a village with retail and commercial space, a 6500-seat covered arena for as many as 50 indoor equestrian events each year, a one-mile racing track, miles of equestrian trails, and more. The County Redevelopment Agency has been negotiating with the would-be developer, and once the terms of the contract are settled, the public will have only 10 days to challenge the agreement. The environmental impacts of the project will only be considered *after* the agreement is signed—a clear case of putting the "cart before the horse!" It seems that the county has learned nothing from the back-room dealings that have apparently upended the regional water project.

**FORA Reauthorization and Plan Update:** With pressure from developers to move the above projects and others along before the Habitat Management Plan is even finalized, the public is becoming increasingly frustrated with the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) created by the State Legislature to oversee redevelopment after closure of Fort Ord. With FORA expiring in 2014 there is growing urgency to restructure FORA if it is reauthorized and also to require updating the Fort Ord Reuse Plan, which is clearly failing to concentrate on "reuse" of the dilapidated areas instead of sacrificing valuable wildlands habitat. CNPS urges that revision of the plan and completion of the Habitat Plan should be highest priority along with refining FORA's governance to give the affected public more influence.

**Jacks Peak Zipline:** The Mitigated Negative Declaration that was supposed to have been released by now on the proposed zipline at Jacks Peak Park has not appeared, while opposition has continued to grow. Opponents cite a list of potential impacts and have urged a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The chapter agrees that an EIR is required because of the long history of the park for passive use. Late Flash! The county just announced that an EIR would be prepared!



**Sunday March 25, 9:30am** **Field Trip**  
**Kahn Ranch Spring Wildflower Walk**

Michael Mitchell & Dr. Rod Yeager, co-authors of *Wildflowers of Garland Ranch—a field guide*, will take us into the Kahn Ranch. It is a lesser known part of Garland Ranch that is a special place to see not only beautiful vistas but a wide variety of spring wild flowers. The outing begins with a short walk to a waterfall then with a climb into a different habitat where we will be surrounded by flowers along the way. 3.7 miles/1,100 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch, water & hiking boots. Meet by 9:30 in the main parking lot (lower lot) of Garland Ranch. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

**ARTICLES, ETC.**

**Reminder**

There won't be a MB CNPS General Meeting in April because of intensive preparation of our annual wildflower show.

**CNPS is in My Will**

CNPS is in my will, how about you? Become a member of the CNPS Legacy Circle. If you care about CNPS and the work we do and would like to see it continue, please consider a gift to the society in your will. It's easy to do and feels great!

**Moving?**

If you will be moving soon, please let our Membership Chair Ron Branson know as soon as possible. Don't miss out on our latest activities by missing out on your newsletter. Plus, each "returned address change newsletter" costs the chapter 45¢ to pick up. See the masthead on page 4 for Ron's contact information.

**Lead a Field Trip!**

April will be a great time for wildflower field trips, especially just after our annual wildflower show. If you would like to schedule a field trip, hike or workshop for April or just have questions about leading, please contact me. Field trip leaders need not be experts; it is more important to share your enthusiasm as you show participants something that is special to you. Lynn Bomberger, CNPS, Monterey Bay Field Trip Chair 375-7777.

**Thank You for Your Phone Call!**

Naturalist, soon to retire teacher and soon to be a CNPS Field Trip Leader, please phone me again...I misplaced your name and number! Lynn





Monterey Bay Chapter  
 California Native Plant Society  
 P.O. Box 221303  
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Check out our Websites

Monterey Bay Chapter: <http://montereybay.cnps.org>  
 State Organization: [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

**Publication Schedule of the Next Two Wallflowers**

<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
April	Thurs, Mar 15	Wed, Mar 21
May	Thurs, April 12	Wed, April 18

Articles received after the deadline may not be published

**CNPS-MB OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS**

**President:** Brian LeNeve, 624-8497, P.O. Box 1012 Carmel, CA 93921, [bjleneve@att.net](mailto:bjleneve@att.net)  
**Vice President:** Beth Benoit, 394-4234, [bthbenoit@yahoo.com](mailto:bthbenoit@yahoo.com)  
**Treasurer:** Jim Pittman, 726-1768, 19180 El Cerrito Way, Aromas, CA 95004, [jpittman@razzolink.com](mailto:jpittman@razzolink.com)  
**Secretary:** Robert Hale, 656-3108, [hale@nps.edu](mailto:hale@nps.edu)  
**Membership:** Ron Branson, 375-6197, 57 Cielo Vista Drive, Monterey, CA 93940, [rbranson@redshift.com](mailto:rbranson@redshift.com)

**Book Sales:** Carol LeNeve, 624-8497, P.O. Box 1012, Carmel, CA 93921, [ccleneve@att.net](mailto:ccleneve@att.net)  
**Conservation:** Corky Matthews, 659-2528, 2 Via Milpitas, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, [mmatthews2@comcast.net](mailto:mmatthews2@comcast.net)  
**Field Trips:** Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777, [b56@me.com](mailto:b56@me.com)  
**Hospitality:** Rosemary Foster, 625-3083, [rf4mbcnps@att.net](mailto:rf4mbcnps@att.net)  
**Local Flora:** Jim Pittman, (see Treasurer)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777, [b56@me.com](mailto:b56@me.com)  
**Past President:** Rosemary Foster, 625-3083, [rf4mbcnps@att.net](mailto:rf4mbcnps@att.net)  
**Plant Sale:** Patrick Regan, R 659-1191, C 747-7756, PO Box 337, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, [patrick@reganbhc.com](mailto:patrick@reganbhc.com)  
**Posters:** Lisa Hoivik, 375-7765, [lhoivik@comcast.net](mailto:lhoivik@comcast.net)  
**Programs:** Emily Smith, 582-3687, [emily\\_smith@csumb.edu](mailto:emily_smith@csumb.edu)  
**Publicity:** Jan Shriner, C 236-0905, [shrinerforsure@gmail.com](mailto:shrinerforsure@gmail.com)  
**Restoration:** Bruce Delgado, C 277-7690, W 394-8314, 3037 Vaughan Avenue, Marina, CA 93933, [bdelgado62@gmail.com](mailto:bdelgado62@gmail.com)  
**Web Calendar:** Sarah Chmielewski, 410-409-2544, [sarahechmielewski@gmail.com](mailto:sarahechmielewski@gmail.com),  
**Web Master:** Chris Hauser, 392-6931, [chauser@slsconservancy.org](mailto:chauser@slsconservancy.org),  
**Wildflower Show:** Brian LeNeve, 624-8497, P.O. Box 1012 Carmel, CA 93921, [bjleneve@att.net](mailto:bjleneve@att.net)

**AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

**Beach Garden Project:** Joey Dorrell-Canepa, 623-9048, [stephen.canepa@att.net](mailto:stephen.canepa@att.net)  
**Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund:** Bruce Delgado, (See Restoration)  
**Rowntree Garden:** Gary Girard, 372-5870, 375 Gibson Ave., Pacific Grove 93950  
**Monterey Pine Forest Watch:** Joyce Stevens, 624-3149, P.O Box 2116, Carmel 93921, [jstevens@redshift.com](mailto:jstevens@redshift.com)

Dedicated to the Preservation of  
 California Native Flora in its Habitat



**Membership Form**  
**Join the California Native Plant Society!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chapter (County) Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership categories:**

___ Limited income ___ \$25	___ Plant Lover ___ \$100
___ Individual ___ \$45	___ Patron ___ \$300
___ Family ___ \$75	___ Benefactor ___ \$600
___ Mariposa Lily ___ \$1,500	

Please mail this membership form with payment to:

California Native Plant Society, Attention: Membership  
 2707 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

To pay by credit card or more info call 916-447-2677

**All dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible**