

Erysimum menziesii

The Wallflower

The Newsletter of the California Native Plant Society
Monterey Bay Chapter

<http://montereybay.cnps.org>

June 2012

Wildflower Highlights of Cook and Green Pass & Siskiyou Mts.

General Meeting Speaker: Ted Kipping

The Siskiyou Mountains are unusual in North Western America for many reasons:

- They trend mostly East-West allowing marine influence to travel far inland.
- They are geologically quite complex yielding a great variety of soil chemistries allowing for more soil specific plants.
- It is the southern limit for many more northerly species and the northern limit for more southerly species.

We will explore a high pass near the middle of the range between 4500-6500 feet in elevation—the equivalent to 8000-9000 feet in the central Sierra Nevada. Endemism is very high and the variety of taxa impressive. The range as a whole is even richer than what we will have time for—but that is another talk.

Ted Kipping studied Natural History at Columbia University, New York and has been involved in horticulture for thirty-five years. After completing his studies, Ted wanted to apply his knowledge, and went to work at Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. There, he worked with a broad range of trees and other plants. His interest grew toward trees and shrubs, and in 1976 he started his own tree-trimming enterprise. He called himself "Tree Shaper." He has been gazing with rapt interest upon wild things for nearly sixty years—the last forty plus with a camera.

General Meeting • Thursday, June 14

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, June 2, 1pm to 4pm Restoration
Broom Bash, East Side of Point 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 & Ride. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack. Contact Bruce Delgado at 277-7690 or bdelgado62@gmail.com for more information.



Bob Hale leading a recent Del Monte Forest field trip

Photograph by Diana Dennis

Sunday, June 3, 9am to 1:30pm Field Trip
Soberanes Point and Creek Flower Walk

Join leader Bob Hale to experience the marvelous diversity of nature: bird sounds, ocean waves tumbling and a soothing redwood canyon creek. We'll circle a coastal bluff ablaze with flowers, then we'll have lunch beside delightful Soberanes Creek with its rich display of native flowers. About 4 miles on easy trails. Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride by 9am. Bring water and a lunch. Call Lynn at 375-7777 for a reservation.

Sat-Sun, June 9-10, 10am to 4pm Wildflower Show
MPPRD at Garland Ranch, 13th Annual Wildflower Show

Wildflowers will be on display from 10am to 4pm both days at the Garland Visitor Center, free! Guided Wildflower Walks on both days, Field Sketching and a

Calendar of Field Trips & Events Continued on Page 3

CNPS URGES FIRE POLICIES BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE

The following is a summary of the Statewide CNPS Fire Policy adopted last year and presented at a Firescapes Workshop in Carmel Valley last summer. The meetings are still going on in an effort to come up with a County Fire Plan that will meet the needs of residents of the Wildlands-Urban Interface, especially in the Big Sur area, without destructive and costly clearing of native vegetation.

THE PURPOSE of CNPS is to preserve CA native plants in their native habitat. There are practical as well as esthetic reasons for this policy. These are plants that have evolved in response to conditions in their specific habitats over millions of years. They are the basic building blocks of life, supporting whole ecosystems of insects and animals, and exist without any additional inputs of water, fertilizer, etc. They prevent erosion, help moderate climate, conserve water, and provide amazing biological diversity that enhances our lives.

But a lot of these plants are flammable, so how do we live next to them?

CNPS has been evolving policies to cover a variety of issues for decades, and the first formal one on Fire Management dates from 1995. It simply stated that CNPS supports fire management policies that protect life and property and conserve native plant species and their habitats. Vegetation management aimed at reducing fire risk must be interdisciplinary, science-based, consistent with State and Federal laws, and must minimize damage to native plants and their habitats.

Also in 1995 a separate policy on avoiding seeding with ryegrass or other non-natives was approved because extensive research during the 80s showed that in many native communities a seedbank of plants called "fire flowers" would spring to life after a fire, doing a more effective job of preventing erosion than non-native grasses. It turns out that their seeds only germinated when they were stimulated by a chemical or physical effect of fire, serving to hold the soil until the slower growing shrubs and trees reoccupied their habitat. After the Basin Complex Fire there were incredibly beautiful displays of seldom-seen wildflowers such as *Gilia splendens*, a bright pink member of the Polemonium Family, along with many others. After a few years they tend to disappear, but their seeds remain in the soil until the next fire.

In March of last year CNPS circulated a policy on Fire Safety and Native Plants expanding recommendations to several pages, pointing out that because California is so large and diverse, there are different fuel systems that require different solutions to minimize the wildfire threat without degrading native habitats.

Fuel management should be "locally adapted and account for all combustible materials, including building materials, ornamental vegetation, other landscaping materials, and adjacent native ecosystems."

Building codes and ordinances should require structures and landscaping in high fire risk areas to be situated, constructed, retrofitted, and maintained using materials and practices that minimize the ignition and spread of wildfires. Laws and land use policies should discourage new development in areas of high fire danger.

The policies emphasize using state of the art science, which has shown that most of the wildfire risk in existing neighborhoods at the Wildlands Urban Interface (WUI, pronounced woo-ee) is found in structural vulnerability to firebrands (embers), hot air/wind, or direct flame impingement. So by far the most important preventive measures are within 30-100' of residences. The policy does not specifically deal with the impacts of firebreaks in wilderness areas (by eradicating protected rare and endangered plants, introducing invasive non-natives, increasing erosion, and encouraging motorized use). However, fire scientists have pointed out that in the past firebreaks have caused severe damage to native ecosystems without reducing wildfire risk; and should be replaced by proven fuel-management practices that minimize the wildfire threat without devastating native plant habitat.

FORT ORD NATIONAL MONUMENT OFFICIALLY CELEBRATED; HEARINGS SET ON FORA PLAN UPDATE

On Apr. 20 President Obama officially signed a proclamation creating a 14,651-acre Fort Ord National Monument under the 1906 Antiquities Act promulgated by then President Theodore Roosevelt to preserve federal lands with historic, scientific, and recreational values. The text of the proclamation can be found at the following website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/04/20/presidential-proclamation-establishment-fort-ord-national-monument>. A meeting to celebrate this important event was set for Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 19, at Fort Ord. This has all happened so fast that notification was received too late for inclusion in the previous Wallflower, but we hope to have chapter representation at the gathering. Many DC bigwigs, including Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, will be present.

In the meantime, local groups are pressing for a revision of the outdated Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) development plan, which is supposed to be completed by Jan. 1, 2013. Five public meetings have been set to obtain citizen input on the plan, but only the last three are late enough that our members may receive this notice in time: Tuesday, May 29, 6:30-9 pm in the Ferrante Room of the Monterey Conference Center, Monterey; Wednesday, May 30, 6:30-9 pm at the Oldemeyer Multi-Use Center, 986 Hilby Ave., Seaside; and Saturday, June 2, 9:30 am-Noon at Carpenters' Hall, 910 2nd Ave., Marina. It is especially important for citizens of these communities, which have jurisdiction over major parts of Fort Ord or are seriously affected by build-out issues, to speak up for more emphasis on development in degraded areas instead of the nearly pristine areas of forest and maritime chaparral targeted so far. Copies of the relevant documents can be found by googling Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan. Check local papers for details.

Calendar of Field Trips & Events from Page 1

Wildflowers class is offered by Erin Hunter at the Garland Museum on Saturday from 12:00pm-4:00pm (Fee: \$25/\$28, preregistration is required). Two different 1-hour WILDFLOWER SLIDESHOWS including plant identification and discussion on their edible, medicinal and utilitarian properties. The slideshows are on Saturday from 10:30am to 11:30am and Sunday from 2:00pm to 3:00pm at the Garland Museum. Each slideshow will cover different families and will be team presented by Sharon and Michael Mitchell based on Sharon's "The Power of Plants" class. Pre-registration recommended for the walks and the slideshow. Pre-registration is required for the Field Sketching class. To Register, go to: www.mprpd.org, hit "Click here to Register" on the Let's Go Outdoors Catalog icon—then register under the category of 'Wildflower Show.' Call 831-659-6065 for more information.

Sunday, June 17, 9:30am **Field Trip**
Jacks Peak Walk

Jacks Peak gives us both great views out over the Monterey Peninsula and cool canyon walks in the depth of this special forest. We'll talk briefly about the proposed zip-line and then explore. We will begin our outing at the Jacks Peak parking lot where we'll check out the views from the top, and then drive within the park to the East Picnic Area to walk the Madrone Trail below the proposed zip-line. Dress in layers, bring water and snack, and meet at the site of the MPC Farmer's Market (southwest corner of MPC campus on Fremont St.) at 9:30 or at Jacks Peak parking lot at about 10:00. Don't forget to bring small bills for the Iron Ranger! Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Sunday, June 17, 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 & 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.

Sunday, June 24, 1:30pm **Field Trip**
Garland Ranch, River Trail

What could be nicer? An afternoon wildflower walk will be the perfect way to enjoy a Sunday. Plan on about a two-hour easy walk on the River Trail where we hope to find at least a couple dozen different wildflowers. Some of the flowers in this area are rare in other parts of Garland Ranch. Bring water. Meet at the small "open meadow" or "first trail-head" on East Garzas Road. For more information, call Gordon Williams at 372-6374.

CNPS Santa Cruz Area Leaders **Field Trips**

Check online at cruzcnps.org for details on the following:

June 2, Laguna Creek, Randy Morgan

June 9, Little Basin, Randy Morgan

June 16, Mountain Charlie Road, Randy Morgan

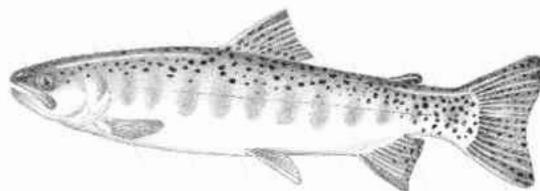
ARTICLES, ETC.

PROGRAMS CHAIR NEEDED!!

Emily Howard, Programs Chair for the past four years, is heading into motherhood! We are in need of a new Programs Chair in her absence. The position consists of contacting and booking the monthly chapter meeting speakers, obtaining speaker write-ups for the Wallflower newsletter and coordinating speakers' arrival, equipment needs, travel honorarium and hospitality interests. please contact Brian LeNeve (624-8497) if you are interested.

LOOKING FORWARD

There won't be a CNPS General Meeting in July or August; there will be a July/August Wallflower.





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Check Out Our Websites

Monterey Bay Chapter: <http://montereybay.cnps.org>

State Organization: www.cnps.org

Publication Schedule of the Next Two Wallflowers

<u>Newsletter</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing Date</u>
July/August	Wed, June 13	Tues, June 19
September	Wed, Aug 15	Tues, Aug 21

Articles received after the deadline may not be published

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AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Beach Garden Project: Joey Dorrell-Canepa, 623-9048,
 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

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 for more info call 916-447-2677

Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible