Ferns of the Bay Area
General Meeting Speaker: Deanna Giuliano

This talk will focus on the diverse array of ferns that inhabit the varied ecosystems in the Bay Area, from San Francisco to Monterey. Even though they are not dazzling flowering plants that catch our attention when hiking in the wilds, ferns are attractive and are very adaptive to many types of habitats including riparian, woodland, springs, dry forest and rocky outcrops. Some species growing over six feet tall to smaller species only a few inches, from lush perennials to species that lie dormant waiting for the fall rains to reawaken them from their slumber.

Deanna Giuliano is the Nursery Director and Botanical Consultant for Acterra Native Plant Nursery. She is also the president of the Santa Cruz Chapter of CNPS. For the last few years she worked for the CNPS rare plant treasure hunts in the Los Padres National Forrest.

General Meeting • Thursday, September 10
Visiting and Book Purchasing from 7:00pm
Meeting and Program Begin at 7:30pm
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

On Chews Ridge, Michael Mitchell showed us many flowers that we don’t usually see at lower elevations. We all had a great time in spite of the unusually hot weather. Photo by Lynn
Sunday, October 18, 1:30pm  Field Trip
S.F.B. Morse Reserve, Del Monte Forest
Bruce Cowan has served on the Del Monte Forest Open Space Advisory Committee for over 30 years. Today he’ll lead us on a Del Monte Forest exploration sharing some of his knowledge and insight regarding the forest. It’s a special place with many rare plants including an unusual Monterey and Bishop pine forest combined, Gowen cypress trees, Hooker manzanitas and others. Approximately 2.5 miles with 200 feet elevation gain. Bring water, arrive early; we depart from the Haul Road parking area on Hwy. 68 at 1:30pm. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Saturday, October 24, 9:30am  Field Trip
The Hidden Magic of Seeds
We all stand in awe of the beauty of flowering plants, but we neglect the beauty and variety of seeds and fruits that follow. Take a short walk in Garland Ranch with Sharon and Michael Mitchell to explore the strategies that plants use to move their seeds about as well as discussing their uses as food for humans and animals. And finally, we will discover the hidden magic inside a seed that allows a new plant to grow and flourish in spring. Meet at the Garland Ranch Visitor Center at 9:30am. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

WEED WARRIORS!
Doing volunteer work is associated with high levels of overall life satisfaction. Yes, it's proven by science—getting out and doing worthwhile stuff in congenial company actually makes you happy!

Three volunteer weed warriors have some fun on the job. Weed workers do a great service and enjoy nature on ‘first Saturdays’ and ‘third Sundays’—see ‘Stewardship’ on page 1 for more information. Photo by Bruce Delgado

Weed warrior Bruce Delgado is doing what he loves. Bruce has been after weeds since 1979 in the Humbolt area and now he’s dedicated to fighting weeds at Fort Ord and other Monterey County areas. Photo by Jon Hubbard

Bob Hale has been a weed warrior since 1995 in the Soberanes Point and Soberanes Canyon areas. He has also planted many beautiful natives in those areas. Photo by Lynn

Weed warrior Jon Hubbard has been on the job attacking Cape ivy, broom and other weeds since 1998. Jon primarily works to improve the Soberanes area and Lobos Ranch. Photo by Bruce Delgado

Bruce Cowan has gone after weeds since 1976 in Point Lobos, Del Monte Forest, PG Museum, PG community areas and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Photo by Lynn

Weed Warrior Information Continued on Page 3
Becoming a Weed Warrior

Since January, 2003, volunteers of our Chapter and/or State Park employees return each 1st Saturday of the month on that portion of Point Lobos which is east of Highway 1 (sometimes referred to as Lobos Ranch) and each 3rd Sunday west of Hwy 1 in Garrapata State Park. Adding up these two monthly events they total 316 volunteer weed bashes as of this newsletter’s printing!

At Lobos Ranch the primary weed target is French broom. On August 1, 2015, volunteers Jon Hubbard and I were impressed by the huge progress made over the years at this location. In the early 1990s, French broom in this area was the dominant plant in several locations, reducing the understory of this beautiful Monterey Pine forest to a thicket of French broom. Today, one needs to look hard to find any broom at all but actually many small broom do exist and monthly weed bashes are important to control this weed with the hope of eventual eradication. To eradicate French broom, its seed bank needs to be exhausted—the seed bank might last 50 years or more. To do this, our goal is to prevent the production of viable seed each year. Our efforts are far from perfect so some seed is set each year lengthening the timeframe of this project. We are in a marathon, not a sprint. The volunteer fulfillment is exhilarating due to the connection one can develop with such a beautiful Monterey pine forest and the visual cues that indicate a huge difference is being made to promote the thriving growth of native plants (e.g., oaks and pines, coffeeberry, toyon, blue wild rye, huckleberry, honeysuckle and others) via the removal of formerly dominant French broom. Each month’s visit, the weather, season, volunteers, and work locations are different in some ways but remain the same in other important ways. Each month when we say goodbye it is with the thrill of expectation we’ll return again soon to walk amongst our friends, the plants and animals, sights and sounds of this forest.

Getting on in age, we regular volunteers are aware at some point in the next ten years or so, we’ll need to turn the project over to other, as yet unknown, volunteers. Mike Turbo, younger than the rest, has been a great help, but we need more dedicated individuals to become warriors. If you are interested in joining us for a weed bash or interested in leading this project in the future please let me know.

In a future Wallflower issue, I’ll discuss the monthly weed bash project at Garrapata State Park where the main target is Cape ivy.
~ Bruce Delgado 277-7690 or bdelgado62@gmail.com

Calendar of Field Trips & Events Continued from Page 2

Saturday, October 31 Field Trip
Falling Leaves at Maple Falls, Nisene Marks
Join Lynn Bomberger on this 7 mile Nisene Marks hike with 700 feet elevation gain. Our path takes us through a lovely forest along beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. If our timing is right, we will enjoy gently falling maple leaves around us as we relax for lunch at the falls. Agility is required. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:40am from the far end of the parking lot in front of REI in Marina or depart from the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30am. Contact Lynn at 375-7777 for a reservation—limit of 8.

CNPS Santa Cruz Area Field Trips
Check online at cruzcnps.org for details on listed Santa Cruz area field trips.

SOBERANES CANYON AND POINT NEED HELP
Monthly Chapter weed outings have been supplemented by many hundreds of hours of work by Bob Hale in removing non-natives from Soberanes Canyon and Point, and the Lower Rocky Ridge. Bob needs to reduce his workload and needs help to maintain the progress achieved so far. A lot of the hard work has been done, so it is mostly maintenance now. Anyone interested in helping, contact Bob Hale at 656-3108 or hale@nps.edu.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Our chapter is in need of volunteers to help meet the varied conservation challenges that are constantly cropping up (sort of like invasive weeds!). Please contact Bob Hale at 656-3108 or hale@nps.edu or Deanna at poetviolist@gmail.com.
Membership Form

Join the California Native Plant Society!

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Membership Categories:

____ Limited Income ____________ $25
____ Plant Lover _______________ $100
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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.