



Erysimum menziesii

The Wallflower

The Newsletter of the California Native Plant Society
Monterey Bay Chapter

<http://montereybay.cnps.org>

January/February 2016

Why Hybridize Natives?

General Meeting Speaker: Rich Persoff

Why don't native perennials do well in cultivation, and what can we do about it? Must we be "Trophy" Gardeners, growing only the rare, the exotic, the difficult?

When we put our native plants in what would be ideal conditions for East Coast perennials, they frequently act like high school kids with the key to the liquor cabinet! Direct selections of California wildlings too often do poorly, even though through millennia they have developed genetic toolboxes to deal with limited soil nutrients, deer pruning, heat, dryness, fires, shading, crowding, attracting pollinators, etc. We will accompany Rich on his rambles bringing sticky monkey-flowers out of the wild and into the garden. With time and patience, we all can create hybrids of our beautiful native flora.

Brown-thumbed California native Rich Persoff was entranced by his first Feather River Monkey-flower at the 1958 Stinson Beach Wildflower Show. He has collected at hundreds of locations and made thousands of crosses to develop garden-tolerant strains which maintain their wild character. Named hybrids have been available for 15 years from Yerba Buena, Native Sons, San Marcos, Suncrest, and Tree of Life nurseries, and have proven themselves reliable, beautiful plants for California landscapes.

General Meeting • Thursday, January 14

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

Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History



CALENDAR of FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Saturdays, Jan 2 & Feb 6, 1pm to 4pm Stewardship
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 and Ride. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water and a snack. For more information, contact Bruce Delgado at bdelgado62@gmail.com or 277-7690.



Sharon and Michael Mitchell taught us a LOT about seeds and then we enjoyed a lovely walk in Garland Ranch to explore seeds in nature. Photo by Stef Pummell

Sunday, January 3rd, 9:15am Field Trip
Fabulous Ferns, Lichens & Seedlings

Join Michael Mitchell to admire the beautiful ferns and fascinating lichens and to see how many of the coming spring flowers we can find along Garland Ranch's finest wildflower trail. We will take the Terrace Trail out and return along Garzas Creek. The 3-4 mile hike has approximately 600 ft. elevation gain. Meet at 9:15 am at Garland's main parking lot. Boots or shoes with good treads are essential. Bring a snack and water. Call co-leader Lynn Bomberger at 375-7777 for a reservation.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday, Jan 8-10 Event
41st Annual Fungus Fair

Visit the kingdom of Fungi! Learn about the hundreds of beautiful and fascinating species of local fungi on display in recreated woodland habitats. Enjoy speakers, classes, vendors, kids hands-on activities and more! The Fungus Fair will be held at the Loudon Nelson Community Center and is sponsored by the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz. Call 831-684-2275 or go to: <http://www.scfungusfair.org> for details.

Friday, January 15 Field Trip
Fetid Adder's Tongue Hike, Land of Medicine Buddha

It's a stinky little flower but an exciting one since it's one of our first each year! Bring water, snack and \$ for optional lunch at a café after the hike. Also please bring a few dollars to contribute to the upkeep of the land. Approximately 6 miles/700 ft. elevation gain. Arrive early; we depart at 7:55 a.m. from the south far end of the parking lot in front of REI in Marina. Or be at Center Street's diagonal parking next to the Congregational Church of

Calendar of Field Trips & Events Continued on Page 2

Calendar of Field Trip & Events Continued from Page 1

Soquel before 8:50am Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777—limit of 8. Leaders: Andy Werner and Lynn Bomberger.



Bruce Cowan taught us some very interesting things as he led us through the Del Monte Forest. We all had a great time. Photo by Clint Beckett from New Zealand

Sundays, Jan 17 & Feb 21, 11am to 2pm Stewardship 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 Road Park and Ride. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack. Contact Bruce Delgado at bdelgdo62@gmail.com or 277-7690 for details.

Tuesday, January 19 Del Monte Forest Fungi Field Trip with Phil Carpenter

Phil Carpenter, local fungus expert, current Science Minister and past president of the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz, will take us into the Del Monte Forest for a mushroom field trip! We'll discover an amazing variety of fanciful fungi, both delicious and deadly (we won't be sampling). If you have a mushroom that you would like to have identified, bring it or a photo. The walking will be about 2 miles with very little elevation gain—heavy rain cancels. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from the back end of the Safeway parking lot in Pacific Grove. Bring a snack or lunch and water. CNPS & FFSC members only (join Tuesday!). Call CNPS leader, Lynn Bomberger for a reservation at 375-7777. Limit of 15.



Hikers on Lynn Bomberger's Maple Falls field trip pose on an old railroad trestle in the Nisene Marks forest. It was a perfect day, a fun hike and we also enjoyed Marianne's ice cream after the hike! Photo by Jesalee LaPatra

Saturday, February 20 Toro Park Footsteps of Spring

Join Bob Hale in an easy 1 to 2 mile walk with up to 250 ft. elevation gain. We'll walk up along a magical display of footsteps of spring and then descend into Wildcat Canyon to enjoy other early spring wildflowers and to also identify young plants yet to flower. Bring a snack and water. We'll depart at 9:45am from the dirt parking area outside of Toro Park. Call Lynn at 375-7777 for a reservation. Limit of 8.

Wednesday, February 24 Toro Park Early Wildflowers

This 5½ mile hike with 800 ft. elevation gain has a delightful variety of wildflowers: Indian warriors, footsteps of spring, shooting stars are just a few. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:45 from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

ARTICLES, ETC.



Lace Lichen photo by Shelly Benson

LACE LICHEN BECOMES FIRST EVER STATE LICHEN

The New Year brings the country's first state lichen to our state—the lace lichen, *Ramalina menziesii*. Lace lichen is the gorgeous gray-green lichen that heavily drapes our local coast live oak and Monterey pine forests. While often wrongly called Spanish moss, it is actually a remarkably fast growing lichen. It grows in long perforated strands to maximize its surface area so that its algal component can absorb our local frequent coastal fogs. It can grow about 10 cm or more a year and is important forage for deer and nest material for birds. By fixing nitrogen from the air, some of it falls to the ground and enriches our forest soils. Masses of lace lichen indicate good air quality—so enjoy its local abundance! Since it occurs all along the California coast and up to 130 miles inland, it is fitting that such a showy lichen be the first state lichen. ~ Bob Hale

AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SOME VERY INTERESTING PEOPLE

Do you like meeting interesting people? CNPS Monterey needs a Program Chair—one who will host speakers for our meetings every other month. This is a fun way to get involved with CNPS. Please call Lynn Bomberger at 375-7777 or Carol LeNeve at 624-8497 for more information.

CONSERVATION CHAIR REQUEST

Our chapter is in need of volunteer help to address the many varied conservation challenges such as the ones described in our Conservation Reports. Please contact Bob Hale at 656-3108 or hale@nps.edu for your valued input.

OUR REVISED COUNTY BOOK

THE book, *The Plants of Monterey County, an Illustrated Field Guide* by Mary Ann Matthews and Michael Mitchell, is now available at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, Wild Bird Haven and Pilgrim's Way Bookstore.

40 YEARS AGO



Almost all of the Del Monte Forest would look like the 1976 photo above if it weren't for weed warriors—mainly Bruce Cowan. Bruce was voted Pacific Grove's volunteer of the year in 2015 for his dedication to beautifying many parts of Pacific Grove and the Del Monte Forest. Pictured above battling pampas grass are Bruce swinging the mattock, Judy Cowan clipping seed plumes along with Eddy and Eleanor Fagin on the left and Beatrice Howitt on the right. Thank you Bruce and all of the other CNPS warriors!





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 California Native Plant Society
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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 Wallflower

Newsletter	Deadline
March/April	Saturday, Feb 13

Articles received after the deadline cannot be published.

CNPS-MB OFFICERS & BOARD of DIRECTORS

President: Chris Hauser, 392-6931, chauser@slconservancy.org
Vice President: Beth Benoit, 394-4234, bthbenoit@yahoo.com
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Membership: Ron Branson, 626-3672, 3751 Raymond Way, Carmel, CA 93923, rbranson@redshift.com

Book Sales: Carol LeNeve, 624-8497, PO Box 1012, Carmel, CA 93921, ccleneve@att.net

Conservation: Help Wanted!!

Field Trips: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777, b56@me.com

Horticulture: Patrick Regan, H 659-1991, C 747-7756, PO Box 337, Carmel Valley, CA 93924, patrick@reganbhc.com

Hospitality: Rosemary Foster, 625-3083, rf4mbcnps@att.net

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Stewardship: Bruce Delgado, C 277-7690, W 394-8314, 3037 Vaughan Avenue, Marina, CA 93933, bdelgado62@gmail.com

Web Calendar: Sarah Chmielewski, 410-409-2544, sarahechmielewski@gmail.com

Web Master: Chris Hauser (see President)

Wildflower Show: Brian LeNeve (see Past President) & Michael Mitchell, 625-9300, michael@fmmitchell.net

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Beach Garden Project: Joey Dorrell-Canepa, 623-9048, stephen.canepa@att.net

Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund: Bruce Delgado (see Stewardship)

Rowntree Garden: Gary Girard, 372-5870, 375 Gibson Ave., Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Monterey Pine Forest Watch: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149, PO Box 2116, Carmel, CA 93921, jstevens@redshift.com

Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting
 California Native Plants and Their Habitats



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.