The Tanoak Tree: An Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood

General Meeting Speaker: Frederica Bowcutt

Tanoak is a resilient hardwood tree native to California and southwestern Oregon. People’s radically different perceptions of it have ranged from treasured food plant to cash crop to trash tree.

Frederica Bowcutt uncovers a complex history of cultural, sociopolitical, and economic factors affecting the common tree’s fate in her first book. Still valued by indigenous communities for its nutritious acorns, tanoak has also been a source of resources for a variety of U.S. industries. In northern California, they are currently killed with herbicides in industrial forests in favor of more commercially valuable coast redwood and Douglas-fir. Now tanoaks are experiencing massive die-offs due to sudden oak death, an introduced disease.

Bowcutt examines the complex set of factors that set the stage for the tree’s current ecological crisis. The end of the book focuses on hopeful changes including reintroduction of low-intensity burning to reduce conifer competition for tanoaks, emerging disease resistance in some trees, and new partnerships among tanoak defenders, including botanists, foresters, Native Americans, and plant pathologists.

Frederica Bowcutt teaches botany at The Evergreen State College and serves as director of its natural history museum. Her Ph.D. in ecology is from UC Davis. She first joined CNPS as a teenager. For a trailer on her book, The Tanoak Tree: An Environmental History of a Pacific Coast Hardwood, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzY7QxOiI8I

General Meeting • Thursday, September 8
Visiting and Book Purchasing from 7:00pm
Meeting and Program Begin at 7:30pm
Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History

Annual CNPS Plant Sale!
Saturday, October 1
10:00am to 1:00pm

MEarth HILTON BIALEK HABITAT
CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL • CARMEL VALLEY ROAD

These are tough times for Monterey County wildlife. Consecutive years of continued drought and wildfire takes its toll on plants and animals. Why not do something practical about it in your yard, on your patio or front porch? Plant native plants! Feed a butterfly and its children; offer high-energy nectar to a hummingbird or a juicy berry to a songbird. Reevaluate your garden and stop feeding only deer!

We can help you! Come out to our annual Fall Plant Sale at MEarth Hilton Bialek Habitat, adjacent to Carmel Middle School at 4380 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel on October 1 from 10 am to 1 pm. Shop Hundreds of Native plants that will be beautiful additions to your garden as well as much needed feeding stations for winged wildlife and more. The advice is free and the plants are discounted if you are a California Native Plant Society member. Do something good for wildlife—plant natives!

Check our website for more information and the sale inventory list which will be posted by September 25.

CNPS Members Get 10% Discount on Plant & Book Purchases!

Calendar of Field Trips & Events

Saturdays, September 3 & October 1
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 by 1pm—we’ll return ±4pm. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water and a snack. For details, contact Bruce Delgado at bdelgado62@gmail.com or 277-7690.

Calendar of Field Trips & Events Continued on Page 2
Calendar of Field Trips & Events  Continued from Page 1

Wednesday, September 21  Field Trip
Del Monte Forest Hike
We have temporarily lost a lot of trails in the Soberanes fire, but we still have the Del Monte Forest. This nice lollypop loop begins in Carmel and leads into the quiet Monterey pine forest of Pebble Beach. Lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich. 6 miles, 750 feet elevation gain with flora & fauna stops. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from the Rio Road Park & Ride in Carmel. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, October 8  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 35 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.

Sundays, September 18 & October 16  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 & Ride by 11am—we’ll return ±2pm. All supplies provided. Bring a friend, water, and a snack. Contact Bruce Delgado at bdelgdo62@gmail.com or 277-7690 for details.

Thursday, November 3  Field Trip
Falling Leaves at Maple Falls, Nisene Marks
Join Andy Werner and Lynn Bomberger on this 8 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, lunch and money for a park pass. 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.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Rancho Cañada Village: The comment period for the RDEIR for the Rancho Cañada Village closed on August 8. This residential development is at the western portion of recently closed Rancho Cañada West Golf Course just below the Carmel Middle School. An alternative with lower density of 130 units compared to 281 originally was presented. In both projects, the good news is that the entire Carmel River channel and flood plain would be set aside as open space of about 31 acres and a restoration plan would convert the disturbed golf course areas back to native grassland, shrubland and riparian woodlands, with trails to link to surrounding parkland.

Conservation Report  Continued on Page 3
**Rancho Cañada Park**: The Trust for Public Land has or will acquire the approximately 190 acres of the soon to close Rancho Cañada East golf course near the mouth of Carmel Valley. Together with the proposed Village project this will preserve as parkland a substantial riparian corridor along the Carmel River to the west of the Hacienda Carmel community all the way to the lagoon. Ownership will be transferred to the Regional Park District. In the future many other local organizations will be involved with “re-wilding” the golf course, but as of yet no funds are available.

**Monterey Downs**: The City of Seaside released on August 2, the FSEIR for the large Monterey Downs development on the former Fort Ord lands surrounding Parker Flats and Gigling Roads. A proposed horse racing track, commercial space and 1,280 dwelling units will surround a remnant 70 acre parcel of oak woodland in open space. Another 312 acres of oak woodland will be destroyed along with habitat for numerous sensitive plant species such as Monterey spineflower, sandmat manzanita, Monterey ceanothus and Eastwood’s golden fleece. The mitigations seem to involve salvage and transplanting sensitive plants and a complex 1:1 acreage mitigation for oak woodland. The oak mitigation consist of a mixture of up to 50% oak woodland restoration in the surrounding areas or elsewhere in Monterey County and the remaining acreage consisting of preservation of existing oak woodlands in the vicinity if feasible or contributing money to preserve oak woodlands elsewhere in California. In other words they really don’t know what they will do to mitigate for the loss of oak woodland habitat.

This project has a long road ahead and faces a serious lack of water. There is no indication of when a public hearing will be held by the city of Seaside for comment on the FSEIR and their certification. If you would like to be notified of when public hearings are scheduled and if you will be willing to help submit comments, please email Robert Hale at hale@nps.edu. Additional approval will be needed at the county level as well as certification from numerous public agencies for consistency with Habitat Management Plans for Fort Ord. This is just the beginning of a long process.

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**MEETING FACILITATOR—HELP WANTED**

Calling all energetic CNPS membership-meeting attendees! Your kind actions are requested for setting up two tables for book sales, staging for the speaker, and additional chairs for last minute arrivals who run fashionably late. If you are willing to help coordinate behind the scenes to communicate availability, arrive early or stay late, your support will be greatly appreciated. Ideal candidates will be willing to commit to at least one year of membership meetings (six meetings) occurring in the odd-numbers months. Please contact Chapter President Chris Hauser at 392-6931 or chauser@slconservancy for details.

**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**

Join CNPS Today!

Name__________________________

Address________________________

City, State, Zip___________________

Telephone________________________

Email____________________________

Chapter (County) Affiliation__________

Membership Categories:

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Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.

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.