

California Native Plant Society – Monterey Bay Chapter

Archive of Field Trips 2016-

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2019

Saturday, January 5

Fabulous Ferns, Lichens & Fungi—Garland Ranch

Join Michael and Sharon Mitchell on a gentle hike along the Buckeye Nature Trail and Cliff Trail in Garland Ranch. We should find a fine display of ferns, lichens and fungi, all being essential parts of the environment's annual cycle. Even without flowers, there is much to see! ±2.5 miles with ±100 feet ascent. Bring boots or shoes with good treads, a snack and water.

Wednesday, January 9

Point Lobos CNPS Mushroom Walk

This ±2 mile ramble with negligible elevation change will be on several trails in pine forest and chaparral. We'll stop to look at anything of interest and discuss the symbiotic relationships that have evolved between some mushrooms and plants. We'll also discuss the gastronomic relationships between specific fungi and animals (including Homo sapiens). Bring water, a snack and rain gear. Heavy rain cancels. Led by Stanley **Dudek**.

Sunday, January 13

East Point Lobos—Marks Addition

This trip is limited to CNPS members and Point Lobos docents. (You can join CNPS at the beginning of the walk.) We will be hiking into an area of State Parks property not often seen. Come see the Gowen cypress elfin forest, maritime chaparral and redwoods. Two species of manzanitas and two species of ceanothus should be in bloom. Bring water and a snack. ±1.5 Miles with ±200 feet ascent. Hard rain cancels. Led by Rosemary Foster.

Sunday, January 20

Mount Madonna Fetid Adder's Tongue Hike

It's a stinky little flower but an exciting one since it's one of the first of the new year! Let's see if the intriguing Fetid Adder's Tongue is blooming at Mount Madonna. If not, we'll have a nice hike in a lovely forest. We'll do ±4.5 mile loop with ±800 feet ascent. Bring water and lunch. Led by Andy Werner and Lynn Bomberger

Wednesday, January 30

Fabulous Ferns, Lichens & Seedlings—Terrace Trail

Join Michael and Sharon 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 ±3.5 mile hike has ± 600 feet ascent. Footwear with good treads are essential. Bring a snack and water.

Sunday, February 3

Limekiln State Park Trails

The drive is a long one but, oh, so beautiful! The in-and-out trails are along gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. ±4 miles with ±650 feet ascent. Bring water, lunch and a few dollars for the park entrance fee. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger. redwood environment with several creeks on our way

to Big Sur Land Trust's Mitteldorf Preserve. We'll even admire the county's largest diameter redwood. Bring water and lunch. BSLT will cancel our outing if there are downed trees, etc., due to rain. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Sunday, February 24

Garland Ranch Early Wildflowers

This hike of ± 3.5 miles and ± 800 feet ascent has a delightful variety of wildflowers including Indian warriors and shooting stars. We'll go out the Terrace Trail, return by Garzas Canyon Trail and have lunch beside Garzas Creek. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Tuesday, March 5

Limekiln State Park Trails

We'll hike in-and-out trails beside gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. ± 4 miles with ± 650 feet ascent. Bring water, lunch and a few dollars for the park entrance fee. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Wednesday, March 13

Spring flowers and Birds in the Hills in Pacheco State Park

The oak-studded hills should be full of spring flowers, birds and perhaps some great views. Bring water, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, your lunch, and binoculars. ± 6 miles, $\pm 1,000$ feet ascent. Led by Cliff Halverson

Saturday, March 23

Kahn Ranch—Early Spring Wildflowers

Michael and Sharon Mitchell will take us into the Kahn Ranch. This 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. 3.7 miles with 1,100 feet. elevation gain.

Tuesday, March 26

Mount Madonna—from Serpentine to Redwoods Hike

Join Andy Werner on a wonderful tour of Mount Madonna County Park on the eastern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This is a fairly strenuous but shaded hike of ± 6 miles with $\pm 1,500$ feet ascent. Bring lunch and water.

Saturday, March 30

Birding and Nature Walk

This hike is along a riparian area and an isolated beach with possible snowy plover sightings. We begin at the Salinas River National Wildlife Refuge, a little-used spot near Marina. ± 6 miles walking on sand. Optional lunch at Phil's Seafood. Led by Cliff Halverson

Sunday, April 7

Fort Ord National Monument Spring Wildflower Tour

CNPS volunteer David Styer and BLM Botanist Bruce Delgado will lead this tour at Fort Ord. We'll focus several stops and short hikes on rare and beautifully diverse flowers in such habitats as vernal pools, oak woodlands, maritime chaparral, and native grasslands.

Wednesday, April 10

Williams Canyon Hike to Mitteldorf Preserve

This lovely hike is ±4 miles with ±400 feet ascent. It is along Williams Canyon Road where we'll pass through a spectacular redwood environment with several creeks on our way to Big Sur Land Trust's Mitteldorf Preserve. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Wednesday, April 24

Fort Ord Spring Wildflower Hike

Come and do a wondrous ±6 mile wildflower hike with little elevation gain with Andy Werner. Andy will do a scouting outing before our hike to find the best flowers—Fort Ord can have amazing flower displays. Bring lunch and water.

Saturday, April 27

Garzas Creek Broomrape Hike

Our ±4 mile awesome wildflower loop with ±800 feet elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. If we're lucky, we will see some naked broomrape in bloom. Bring water and lunch. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Sunday, April 28

Upper Garzas Creek Hike BBQ/Potluck

Join Al Washburn and Bruce Delgado at Al's cabin in the woods along Garzas Creek—dogs are OK. Take a walk along the creek or a more strenuous hike up steep surrounding hills. Bring potluck lunch items to share around a cooking fire. CNPS members only.

Saturday, May 11

Limekiln State Park Trails

The drive is a long one but, oh, so beautiful! We'll hike in-and-out trails beside gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. ±4 miles with ±650 feet ascent. Bring water, lunch, and a few dollars for the park entrance fee. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Thursday, May 23

Chews Ridge Wildflowers—Scouting Outing

Join Michael Mitchell on his scouting trip for this special traditional outing at the end of this week. Our pace will be a little faster on Thursday than the weekend field trip. As the highest public road in Monterey County, Chews Ridge always offers a unique variety of plants. There will be several stops with easy to moderately-paced hikes of a mile or two. Bring lunch and water. All wheel or 4WD vehicles are recommended. Limit of 8.

Saturday, May 25

Chews Ridge Wildflowers with Michael Mitchell

Join Michael Mitchell, co-author of Monterey County Wildflowers—a Field Guide and the second edition of Corky Matthews' The Plants of Monterey County—an Illustrated Field Key on this special traditional outing. As the highest public road in Monterey County, Chews Ridge always offers a unique variety of plants. There will be several stops with easy to moderate hikes of a mile or two. Meet by the seasonal

footbridge in Garland Ranch's main parking by 9:00am; bring lunch and water—we'll return ± 5pm. All wheel or 4WD vehicles are recommended. Limit of 12.

Tuesday, May 28

Mount Madonna—The Most Beautiful Jewel Flower

Join Andy Werner for a field trip to Mt. Madonna on the eastern summit of the southern Santa Cruz Mountains. We'll see four species of Mariposa lilies in bloom as well as the serpentine-loving Jewel Flower. Also blooming will be Candy Flower at probably its most southerly location as well as many other plants in this serpentine-influenced park. Total distance of ±9 miles with 1,500 feet gradual elevation gain. Bring water and lunch.

Tuesday, May 28

Williams Canyon Hike to Mitteldorf Preserve

This lovely hike is ±4 miles with ±400 feet ascent. It is along Williams Canyon Road where we'll pass through a spectacular redwood environment with several creeks on our way to Big Sur Land Trust's Mitteldorf Preserve. We'll even admire the county's largest diameter redwood. Bring water and lunch. BSLT will cancel our outing if there are newly downed trees, etc. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Thursday, June 13

Santa Lucia Preserve Exploration

The Santa Lucia Conservancy invites you to experience the amazing plant community of the Santa Lucia Preserve. Join us for an easy shuttle hike of ± 3 miles to discover what truly makes the Preserve such a hotspot for biodiversity. With great rainfall this year, we hope that the Preserve puts on a floriferous show for us. Arrive at least 10 minutes early; we will have two sign-in sheets. Bring water and lunch. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Saturday, June 22

Evening Soap Plant Quest

This ±4.5 mile evening hike with ±800 feet elevation gain in Toro Park takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason trail, then up to oak dotted grasslands. If we are lucky, we will see soap plants blooming as they bloom in the late afternoon and evening. If not, we'll have a nice late day walk in the woods. Bring water and dinner. Arrive early; we depart on time. Seniors 62 and older get into the park free with a photo ID. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

2018

Tuesday, January 2

Carmel to Pebble Beach

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 ascent with flora & fauna stops. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from the Rio Road Park & Ride in Carmel—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger.

Friday, January 12

Garland Ranch—Using Calflora and developing plant-logging skills

Join Calflora's Executive Director Cynthia Powell, and Michael Mitchell along the beautiful Terrace Trail and Garzas Creek. The hike of ± 2.5 miles and ± 500 feet ascent is designed to teach and practice using plant-logging tools which Cynthia will explain at the previous evening's CNPS Meeting—meeting attendance is required for the field trip. Meet at the main Garland Ranch parking lot at 9.45am. Bring water, a snack and wear shoes with good treads. Bring your Cell Phone (with Calflora's Observer Pro App installed and functioning). Limit of 12.

Thursday, January 18

Buzzards Roost at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

If you don't like hiking along fern lined trails through a redwood forest with beautiful views along the way then this hike is not for you. On the other hand, if you love all of the above, call me! We'll see lots of wildfire devastation and lots of fresh regrowth. ± 4 miles with ± 800 feet ascent at a leisurely pace. Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride. Arrive early, we depart at 10:00am. Bring water and lunch. Limit of 8.

Tuesday, January 23

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 \$3 to \$5 to contribute to the LOMB to show our appreciation for our use of their land. ± 6 miles ± 700 feet ascent. 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 Soquel before 8:50am. Bring water and a snack. Carpooling is mandatory—limit of 8. Leaders: Andy Werner and Lynn Bomberger.

Tuesday, February 6

Del Mesa to Jacks Peak Hike

Join me in a new hike that begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From Del Mesa we'll hike into a seldom visited area, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. About $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles with ± 600 feet ascent. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Del Mesa. Call for a reservation and directions to the meeting location—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger.

Friday, February 16

Andrew Molera River Hike

This is a lovely in-and-out hike along the Big Sur River on the Bobcat Trail. We'll see meadows, gorgeous sycamores spectacular redwood trees and have plenty opportunities to admire the Big Sur River. We will also experience road noise—not quite, but almost perfect. ± 5 miles with minimal ascent but with some irregular rocky terrain. Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride. Arrive early, we depart at 10:00am. Bring water and lunch. Limit of 8.

Tuesday, February 27

Toro Park Early Wildflowers

This hike of $\pm 5\frac{1}{2}$ miles and ± 600 feet ascent has a delightful variety of wildflowers: Indian warriors, footsteps of spring, shooting stars are just a few. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:45am from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, February 27

Toro Park Early Wildflowers

This hike of $\pm 5\frac{1}{2}$ miles and ± 600 feet ascent has a delightful variety of wildflowers: Indian warriors, footsteps of spring, shooting stars are just a few. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:45am from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, March 4

Ethnobotany Walk

Join local Ethnobotanist Anna Sardina on a 2-3 hour walk discovering the many uses of the native and naturalized plants of Garland Ranch. We will explore edible, medicinal, and practical uses of the plants we encounter regularly in the various habitats of our local parks and wild lands of the Santa Lucia Range. The walk is approximately 2 miles and stays at low elevation. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack. We will meet at the west end of the main (lower) parking lot of Garland Ranch at 11am.

Sunday, March 4, 10am to 2pm

Early Spring Fort Ord National Monument Wildflower Tour

CNPS volunteer David Styer and BLM Botanist Bruce Delgado will lead this tour at Fort Ord. We'll focus several stops and short hikes on rare and beautifully diverse flowers in such habitats as vernal pools, oak woodlands, maritime chaparral, and native grasslands. There will also be great vistas along the way. Bring water, lunch, and good walking shoes. Meet at 10am on Lightfighter Drive off highway 1 in the first parking lot on the right. We'll carpool from this location—early departures are not possible. Co-sponsored by BLM & CNPS.

Friday, March 30

Limekiln State Park Trails

The drive is a long one but, oh, so beautiful! The in-and-out trails are along gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. $\pm 3\frac{1}{2}$ miles with minimal ascent. Bring water, lunch and a few dollars for park entrance (state park passes won't work here). Meet at the Rio Road Park and Ride. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am. Limit of 8. Call Lynn Bomberger for a reservation at 375-7777.

Friday, April 6

Point Lobos Natural History & Geology Discovery

Join Jerry Loomis on a “questions encouraged” natural history and geology walk. Jerry was a park ranger at the Point Lobos Reserve for 22 years and currently coordinates the “Point Lobos Summer Adventures Program” for children. ± 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. Bring water and a snack. Arrive early; we depart at 10am from Rio Road Park and Ride. Call CNPS leader Lynn Bomberger, for a reservation at 375-7777. Limit of 12.

Tuesday, April 10

Garzas Creek Broomrape Hike

Our ± 4 mile awesome wildflower loop with ± 800 feet elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. If we're lucky, we will see some naked broomrape

in bloom. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10am from the lower parking lot in Garland Ranch in Carmel Valley.—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger.

Saturday, April 21

Garzas Creek Wildflower Hike

Escape your daily grind; slip into serene oak and redwood forests. Unwind with a few other happy hikers and some very quiet woodrats along the Garzas Creek, Garzas Canyon Trail and the Terrace Trail. ±4 miles, ±800 ft. elev. gain with flora & fauna stops. Bring a lunch and water. Arrive early; we depart at 10am from Garland Ranch's lower parking lot. Limit of 8.

Thursday, April 26

Fort Ord Spring Wildflower Hike With Andy Werner

Come and do a wondrous ±6 mile wildflower hike with little elevation gain led by Andy Werner in search of lovely spring flowers. Andy will do a scouting outing before our hike to find the best flowers—Fort Ord can have amazing flower displays. Meet by 9:30am at the Creekside parking lot on Fort Ord National Monument. From Highway 68, take the Reservation Road exit and head towards Marina on Reservation Road. After a very short distance, turn left onto Portola Drive and follow the BLM signs to the parking lot. Bring lunch and water. Call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777. Limit of 8.

Saturday, April 28

Dudley's Lousewort Monitoring at Camp Pico Blanco

Come help the chapter map and monitor the rare Dudley's Lousewort along the Little Sur River and in the Pico Blanco Scout Camp. There will be options for both rugged off-trail exploring along the river, as well as easy walking on gentle terrain. The plant should be in full bloom during this trip. High-clearance vehicles are needed to carpool to the camp. Bring water, lunch, bug repellent, and a GPS unit if you have one. Email or call Chris Hauser to RSVP and to get directions to the 8:30 meeting location: 831-238-0906 or cehauser1@yahoo.com. Limit of 20.

Tuesday, May 1

Limekiln State Park Trails

The drive is a long one but, oh, so beautiful! The in-and-out trails are along gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. ±3 ½ miles with minimal ascent.

Sunday, May 6

Wildflower Tour Fort Ord National Monument

BLM Volunteer David Styer and BLM Botanist Bruce Delgado will lead this driving/hiking tour of late spring wildflowers. Total hiking up to 2 miles. We'll visit vernal pools, oak woodland, a post-fire maritime chaparral, and native grasslands where innovative habitat restoration and goat grazing are ongoing. There will be great vistas along the way. Bring water, lunch, and good walking shoes. Meet at 9am on Lightfighter Drive off Highway 1 in the first parking lot on the right. Early departures are not possible due to locked gates. Co-sponsored by BLM & California Native Plant Society. Reservations required; contact Bruce at bdelgado62@gmail.com for questions or to RSVP. Limit 30 people.

Saturday May 19

Carmel River Lagoon Walk and Restoration

After the CNPS meeting program on San Clemente Dam, Brian LeNeve will lead a trip to the Carmel River Lagoon to see the large woody debris project benefiting steelhead and the State Parks West Odello field to view the native plant restoration of the construction site. Last year the restoration site was overrun with ticks, if in a pre-walk it is determined ticks are again a problem, the walk will be along the south side of the river from the Carmel River to San Jose Creek. Because of low tide we will meet at 9:30 at the entrance to the Odello field which is 50 yards south of the Highway 1 bridge on the Carmel River. Limit to 20 people.

Sunday, May 20

Chews Ridge Wildflowers with Michael Mitchell

Join Michael Mitchell, co-author of *Monterey County Wildflowers—a field guide* and the second edition of Corky Matthews' *The Plants of Monterey County—an Illustrated Field Key* on this special traditional outing. As the highest public road in Monterey County, Chews Ridge always offers a unique variety of plants. There will be several stops with easy strolls of a mile or two. Meet in Garland Ranch lower parking lot by 9:00am; bring lunch and water—we'll return ± 5pm. All wheel or 4WD vehicles are recommended. Limit of 12.

Friday, May 25

Santa Lucia Preserve Exploration

The Santa Lucia Conservancy invites you to experience the amazing plant community of the Santa Lucia Preserve. Join us for an easy hike to discover what truly makes the Preserve such a hotspot for biodiversity. With pretty good rainfall this year, we hope that the Preserve puts on a floriferous show for us. This will be a shuttle hike down the Canyon Rim Trail.

Wednesday, May 30

Mount Madonna—The Most Beautiful Jewelflower

Join Andy Werner as he ventures into a remote serpentine area of Mount Madonna to seek the 'most beautiful jewelflower.' We also hope to see the candy flower and many other beautiful early wildflowers. 6 miles with 1,200 ft. elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Arrive early; we depart from the Sprig Recreation area at 9:30am.

Evening Soap Plant Quest

This 5½ mile evening hike with 700 feet elevation gain in Toro Park takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason trail, then up to oak dotted grasslands. If we are lucky, we will see soap plants blooming—they bloom in the late afternoon and evening. If not, we'll have a nice late day walk in the woods. Bring water and dinner.

Saturday , June 16

Tree Walk with Dr Matt Ritter

Friends of Carmel Forest are organizing a tree walk with Dr Matt Ritter, a botany professor at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and author of *A Californian's Guide to the Trees Among Us*. There will be two walks, one at 10 am and the other at 1 pm.

Thursday, June 28

Limekiln State Park Trails

The drive is a long one but, oh, so beautiful! The in-and-out trails are along gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. ±3 ½ miles with minimal ascent. Bring water, lunch and a few dollars for park entrance (state park passes won't work here).

Tuesday, July 10

Mitteldorf Preserve— Williams Canyon Leopard Lily Walk

This lovely hike is ±5 miles with very little elevation gain. It is along Williams Canyon Road into Big Sur Land Trust's Mitteldorf Preserve. We'll see spectacular redwoods, many ferns, redwood sorrel and few flowers along the creek. But if we're lucky, we'll also see the star of the day—beautiful leopard lilies. Bring water and lunch. Leader is Lynn Bomberger.

Friday, July 13

Behind the Scenes at Rana Creek Nursery

Rana Creek Nursery sits on 25 acres of Earth in the verdant Carmel Valley. We grow and supply western native and water-efficient plants for homes and gardens. Our plants are naturally grown without the use of pesticides, herbicides or chemical fertilizers. Rana Creek plants are ideal for intimate gardens, ornamental landscapes, grassy meadows, living roofs, and ecological restoration projects. In addition, we are also a renowned ecological design firm specializing in landscape architecture, environmental planning, native plant propagation, landscape construction and habitat restoration with numerous projects in the U.S. and abroad.

Wednesday, July 25

Hastings Reserve

Join Vince Voegeli, the Resident Director of the Hastings Reserve, on an educational field trip. Hastings is a 2,500-acre biological field station located in upper Carmel Valley, and is part of the California Natural Reserve System operated under the University of California Berkeley—Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. We'll learn about the property's history and some of the current research, including work on oak woodlands, acorn woodpeckers, California deer mice and geology. About 3/4 mile with minimal elevation gain. Bring water and lunch or snack.

Wednesday, August 15

Land of Medicine Buddha

Land of Medicine Buddha is our favorite starting and ending location, but most of this field trip is actually in The Forest of Nisene Marks. We'll see some interesting plants and late wildflowers such as harebells. We'll also hike along a cool shady creek. About 6-7 miles and 700' elevation gain. Bring water and a lunch or snack.

Tuesday, September 4

Andrew Molera State Park Hike

This is a loop hike of ±7.5 miles with a total of ±1,300 feet gain and one steep stretch but otherwise moderate to nearly level hiking at an easy pace. We will cross open grassland into shady redwoods and oaks into sunny chaparral and panoramic vistas, including ocean views (and maybe see Condors). We will move at a leisurely pace stopping frequently to examine interesting wild flowers, trees, shrubs, a honeybee hive, and a pygmy redwood grove. Bring lots of water and a lunch. Dress in layers for all possible weather. Led by Stanley Dudek.

Tuesday, September 11

Williams Canyon Hike to Mitteldorf Preserve

This lovely hike is ± 5 miles with ± 400 feet elevation gain. The hike is along Williams Canyon Road and alongside several creeks into Big Sur Land Trust's Mitteldorf Preserve. We'll see spectacular redwoods, many ferns, redwood sorrel and a few flowers. We'll also have lunch beside a rustic old hunting lodge and admire the county's largest diameter redwood. Bring water and lunch. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Wednesday, September 19

Nisene Marks Hike to Maple Falls

Join Andy Werner on this ± 8 mile Nisene Marks hike with ± 700 feet elevation gain. Our path takes us through a lovely mostly redwood forest where we'll see a variety of ferns and possibly a few flowers. We will also hike alongside two beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. The trail into Maple Falls requires agility but when we get there, we'll relax for lunch at falls. Bring water, lunch and money for a park pass.

Thursday, October 4

Cypress Grove Discovery Walk

Join Jerry Loomis on a "questions encouraged" CNPS discovery walk in the Cypress Grove of Point Lobos. His focus will be on birds, native plants, Native American history, geology, marine biology and anything else we might find along the trail. Jerry was a park ranger at Point Lobos for 22 years and currently is a docent there. About 2 miles of easy walking. Bring water and lunch.

Monday, October 8

Andrew Molera Big Sur River Hike

This is a lovely shaded in-and-out hike along the Big Sur River on the Bobcat Trail. We'll see meadows, gorgeous sycamores spectacular redwood trees and have plenty opportunities to admire the Big Sur River. We'll also experience some road noise—this hike is not perfect, but very close. ± 5 miles with minimal ascent but with some irregular rocky terrain. Bring water and lunch. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Tuesday, October 9

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

This is a strenuous to moderate through hike of ± 7 miles with a total elevation gain of $\pm 1,900$ feet. We begin at the Tanbark trailhead and hike up to the Tin House. Then to open hillside via the Waters Ridge Trail to lunch at a panoramic viewpoint on the Elwoldsen Trail. We'll end with a steep descent through mixed hardwood forest and redwoods to the park entrance. We will make frequent stops to take in the views and examine interesting features of the terrain along the way. Bring lots of water and lunch. Dress in layers for all possible weather. Led by Stanley Dudek.

Wednesday, October 24

Del Monte Forest Hike from Carmel to Pebble Beach

This nicely shaded 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 ascent with flora & fauna stops. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Saturday, November 4

Del Mesa to Jacks Peak Hike

Join me in a hike that begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From Del Mesa we'll hike into a seldom visited area, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. ± 5-½ miles with ± 600 feet ascent. Bring water & lunch. We depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Wednesday, November 7

Mount Madonna Hike

On this hike we will focus on the floral diversity of Mount Madonna—a wonderful south Santa Cruz Mountains park. We will see manzanitas that have hybridized and unique oaks. There will be ±1,500 feet ascent and ±8 miles. It will not be a fast exercise hike—but no cake-walk either. We'll stop to ID and discuss plants and our surroundings. Bring water and lunch. Rain cancels. Led by Andy Werner

Thursday, November 15

Moss Landing Area Beach Birding and Nature Walk

This hike is along a beautifully isolated beach; though we might see a few people fishing or on horseback. We'll walk on the beach south to the Salinas River mouth which will have lots of birds. On the way back, we'll be along a waterway behind the dunes. Be prepared for cool temperatures. Bring warm layers, water, and snacks. Binoculars are highly recommended, for the possible snowy plover sightings. After our hike, optional lunch at Phil's Seafood. ±6 miles. Led by Cliff Halverson.

Saturday, November 24

Mount Defiance, Pinnacles National Park

This hike is ± 6 miles with ±1,000 feet ascent. Expect panoramic views not usually seen elsewhere in the park, maybe a few condors soaring overhead, and possibly a few late-blooming Golden Eardrops. Bring 2 to 3 liters of water, sturdy boots, snacks and lunch. **Long pants recommended** for the dense abrasive brush. Rain cancels. Led by Stanley Dudek

Saturday, December 1

Limekiln State Park Trails

The drive is a long one but, oh, so beautiful! The in-and-out trails at Limekiln are along gorgeous creeks with numerous waterfalls, clear pools, redwoods, sycamores, maples, ferns, redwood sorrel, huckleberries, etc. ±4 miles with ±650 feet ascent. Bring water, lunch and a few dollars for the park entrance fee. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger.

Saturday, December 15

Williams Canyon Hike to Mitteldorf Preserve

This lovely hike is ±4 miles with ± 400 feet elevation gain. It is along Williams Canyon Road and creeks into Big Sur Land Trust's Mitteldorf Preserve. We'll hike through a spectacular redwood environment and even admire the county's largest diameter redwood. Bring water and lunch. BSLT will cancel our outing if there are downed trees, etc. due to rain. Arrive early; we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger

Friday, December 28

Point Lobos Fly Agaric Mushroom Hike

Our luck depends on the rain that we get, but hopefully we'll find some beautiful fly agaric mushrooms in Point Lobos. Even if we don't find any, we'll still have a nice hike. We'll hike ±4 miles on the forest trails with very little ascent. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early, we depart on time. Led by Lynn Bomberger

2017

Saturday, January 7

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 to 4-mile hike has approximately 600 feet elevation gain. Meet at 9:15am at Garland's main parking lot. Boots or shoes with good treads are essential. Bring a snack and water.

Wednesday, January 18

Mount Madonna Fetid Adder's Tongue Hike

It's a stinky little flower but an exciting one since it's one of the first of the new year! Let's see if the intriguing Fetid Adder's Tongue is blooming at Mount Madonna. If not, we'll have a nice hike in a lovely forest. We'll do about a 4-½ mile loop with approximately 800 ft. elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am from the far end of the parking lot in front of REI in Marina or from Sprig Recreation Area at 10:35am.

Friday, February 3

Garzas Creek of Garland Ranch

Escape your daily grind; slip into serene oak and redwood forests to admire ferns, moss and a few early wildflowers along the Garzas Canyon and Terrace trails. 4 miles, 800 feet elevation gain and possibly four creek crossings (depending on water level). Bring a lunch and water. Arrive early; we depart from Garland's main parking lot at 10am. We should return around 2pm.

Sunday, February 12

Marks Addition, Point Lobos East

We'll be hiking into an area of State Parks property not often seen. Come see the Gowen cypress elfin forest, maritime chaparral and redwoods in a 2 to 3 hour walk. Two species of manzanitas might be in bloom and two species of ceanothus as well. We'll meet on Highway 1 near Riley Ranch Road across from and just north of the entry to Pt. Lobos. Because we will be crossing private property, this trip is limited to CNPS members and Point Lobos docents. (Yes, you can join CNPS at the beginning of the walk.) Bring water and a snack. For further information, please call Rosemary Foster at 277-8081. Rain cancels. If rain is threatening on the day, please call Rosemary to be sure.

Tuesday, February 21

Toro Park Early Wildflowers

This 5½ mile hike with 600 feet elevation gain has a delightful variety of wildflowers: Indian warriors, footsteps of spring, shooting stars are just a few. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:45am from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park.

Saturday, March 4

Ethnobotany Walk

Join local ethnobotanist Anna Sardina on a 2-3 hour walk discovering the many uses of the native and naturalized plants of Garland Ranch. We will explore edible, medicinal, and practical uses of the plants we encounter regularly in the various habitats of our local parks and wild lands of the Santa Lucia Range. The walk is approximately 2 miles and stays at low elevation. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack

Tuesday, March 14

Veeder Pond Wildflower

Veeder pond in the spring often has a beautiful wildflower display and so off we go to enjoy them! We'll hike in-and-out at a very slow pace uphill. It's ± 4 miles with ± 1,100 feet elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we will depart at 9:45am from the lower parking lot of Garland Ranch.

Thursday, March 23

Point Lobos Wildflower Walk

Besides numerous wildflowers, we will enjoy magnificent views, a variety of wildlife and a walk through a quiet Monterey pine forest. 4 miles with little elevation gain. Bring water, lunch and \$ for state park fee or a park pass. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am from Rio Road Park & Ride in Carmel.

Tuesday, March 28

Jacks Peak Hound's Tongue Hike

Along the quiet forested trails in Jacks Peak, we will likely find a beautiful display of hound's tongue in bloom. Spectacular views of Monterey, the bay and Carmel Valley are promised. About 5-½ miles with 700 feet elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am from the NW corner of Whole Foods parking lot in Monterey—please park back from storefronts.

Saturday, April 1

Ethnobotany Walk

Join local Ethnobotanist Anna Sardina on a 2-3 hour walk discovering the many uses of the native and naturalized plants of Garland Ranch. We will explore edible, medicinal, and practical uses of the plants we encounter regularly in the various habitats of our local parks and wild lands of the Santa Lucia Range. The walk is approximately 2 miles and stays at low elevation. Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water and a snack. We will meet at the Main Visitor Center of Garland Ranch at 10:00am.

Saturday, April 8

Introduction to Wildflower Identification – A Walk at Fort Ord

Larkspur, sky lupine, and baby blue eyes are some of the flowers we will likely see on this leisurely hike. Using mostly common names, we'll talk about wildflower identification and take the opportunity to learn about plant families, including how to identify some of the most common ones. Meet at the Creekside parking lot on Fort Ord National Monument by 10am to finish around 1pm. From Highway 68, take the River Road/Reservation Road exit and turn towards Marina on Reservation Road. After a very short distance turn left onto Portola Drive and follow the BLM signs to the parking lot.

Tuesday, April 11

Garzas Creek Broomrape Hike

Our 4-½ mile awesome wildflower loop with 800 feet elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. If we're lucky, we will see some naked broomrape in bloom. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10am from the lower parking lot in Garland Ranch in Carmel Valley.

Wednesday, April 26

Fort Ord Spring Wildflower Hike

Come and do a wondrous 6 mile wildflower hike with little elevation gain led by Andy Werner in search of lovely spring flowers. Andy will do a scouting outing before our hike to find the best flowers— Fort Ord can have amazing flower displays. Meet by 9:30am at the Creekside parking lot on Fort Ord National Monument. From Highway 68, take the Reservation Road exit and head towards Marina on Reservation Road. After a very short distance, turn left onto Portola Drive and follow the BLM signs to the parking lot. Bring lunch and water.

Sunday, April 30

Upper Garzas Creek Hike BBQ/Potluck

Join Al Washburn and his sidekick Bruce Delgado at Al's cabin in the woods along Garzas Creek at 2,000 feet altitude. You will have your choice of a gentle walk along the creek or a more strenuous hike up the steep surrounding hills. Meet at 9am sharp at the gated entrance to Santa Lucia Preserve on Rancho San Carlos Road off Carmel Valley Road, just past the CVAC tennis club. 4WD useful, but not required, carpooling a must. Bring potluck lunch items to share around a cooking fire. Return around 3pm. Dogs OK. Call Al at 373-4873 for a reservation or better yet email him at awashburn8@comcast.net. Al's cabin almost burned in the Soberanes fire, so this will be an opportunity to see the fire aftermath.

Sunday, April 30

Venture Off the Beaten Track!

The Gloria Grade crosses the Gabilans, starting from Gonzales on Hwy 101 and coming out on Hwy 25 a few miles north of the Pinnacles East entrance. After the first few miles it is a dirt road—though well maintained and reasonably smooth. Many interesting plants are to be found along its length including the Crinkled Onion, Golden Eardrops, California Larkspur and the rare Dark-mouthed Tritelia. We will also have some wonderful views of the Gabilans, and also of the Diablo Range to the east as well as fields full of poppies and other wildflowers. Join Michael Mitchell to explore this lesser known treasure. Meet at the park-and-ride at the Highway 68 end of the Laureles Grade at 9:15am. Bring a picnic lunch and expect to be back in the early afternoon.

Saturday, May 13

Late Spring Wildflower Tour, Fort Ord Nat Monument

BLM botanist Bruce Delgado will lead this driving/hiking tour of late spring wildflowers. Total hiking will be approximately 2 miles. We'll visit splendid vernal pools, oak woodland, maritime chaparral, and native grasslands where innovative habitat restoration and both goat and sheep grazing are on-going. Bring water and lunch. Meet before 10am inside Imjin Office Park located at 940 2nd Ave, Marina (BLM's new office northeast of REI). Early departures not possible due to locked gates—we'll finish ± 3pm.

Thursday, May 18

Point Lobos Bird Island Trail & Geology Discovery

Join Jerry Loomis on a "questions encouraged" discovery walk in Point Lobos. Our walk will take us along the newly constructed Bird Island handicap access trail that was closed for over a year. Our focus will be on birds, native plants, Native American history, geology, marine biology and anything else we might find along the trail. Jerry was a park ranger at the reserve for 22 years and currently coordinates the "Point Lobos Summer Adventures Program" for children. About 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:30am from Rio Road Park and Ride in Carmel.

Friday, May 26

Santa Lucia Preserve Exploration

The Santa Lucia Conservancy invites CNPS members and friends to experience the amazing plant community of the Santa Lucia Preserve. Join us for an easy hike to discover what truly makes the Preserve such a hotspot for biodiversity. With above average rainfall this year, the Preserve is experiencing one of its prime wildflower seasons. This is an opportunity that you won't want to miss! Leader Jason Mills, the Preserve's Land Steward Manager, will share his expertise in Central Coast botany and plant identification. Arrive early; we depart at 10am. Meet at the Santa Lucia Conservancy parking lot at 26700 Ranch San Carlos Road. Bring water and lunch.

Tuesday, May 30

Maple Falls Hike

This 7 mile Nisene Marks hike with 700 ft. elevation gain takes us through a lovely forest along beautiful creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. Agility is required. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. 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 from the parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30am.

Tuesday, June 6

Evening Soap Plant Quest

This 5½ mile evening hike with 700 feet elevation gain in Toro Park takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason trail, then up to oak dotted grasslands. If we are lucky, we will see soap plants blooming—they bloom in the late afternoon and evening. If not, we'll have a nice late day walk in the woods. Bring water and dinner. Arrive early; we depart at 4:30pm from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park.

Thursday, June 29

Garzas Creek Hike

Join me on this lovely shaded hike that takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek. It's about a 4 mile loop with ±800 feet elevation gain. Bring water and lunch or snack. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Garland Ranch's main parking lot.

Friday, July 7

Williams Canyon Leopard Lily Walk

Jason Mills, Santa Lucia Conservancy's Stewardship Manager, will lead us on this walk of about 5 miles. The trail winds along Williams Creek through a serene redwood forest with little elevation gain. Part of the trail is quite awkward to hike due to the Soberanes fire and flooding caused by trees falling into the creek—agility will be required. We'll see a nice variety of ferns and flowers and hopefully spectacular six-foot-tall leopard lilies. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Santa Lucia Conservancy office parking area, 26700 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel by 9:30am.

Saturday, July 8

Wild NW Corner of Toro Park

Join Ed Mercurio on this short but strenuous hike into a seldom-visited corner of Toro Park. Davy's centaury, Filagos, tar weeds, Chorizanthes, and others will hopefully still be blooming. If nothing else, we'll have spectacular views from steep rugged high cliffs (not for those with a fear of heights). 4 miles with about 700 feet. gain. Bring water, lunch and good hiking boots.

Saturday July 22

Garland Park Summer Wildflower Walk

Our morning walk out the Terrace Trail with Bob Hale should highlight elegant madias and other late season flowers. Then we'll admire a stunning buckwheat slope overlooking Garzas and Redwood Creeks and then back. Moderate climbs with about 3 miles and 600 feet elevation gain. Arrive early; we depart at 9am from second (main) East Garzas Road Trailhead. Bring water and snack.

Tuesday, August 8

Del Mesa Carmel to Jacks Peak Park

This hike begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From there, we'll hike into a seldom visited area on top of a ridge, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. About 5 miles with ± 900 feet elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Del Mesa—limit of 8.

Thursday, September 7

Behind the Scenes at Rana Creek Nursery

Rana Creek Nursery sits on 25 acres of Earth in the verdant Carmel Valley. We grow and supply western native and water-efficient plants for homes and gardens. Our plants are naturally grown without the use of pesticides,

herbicides or chemical fertilizers. Rana Creek plants are ideal for intimate gardens, ornamental landscapes, grassy meadows, living roofs, and ecological restoration projects. Our plants also provide refuge for local fauna and flora. In addition, we are also a renowned ecological design firm specializing in landscape architecture, environmental planning, native plant propagation, landscape construction and habitat restoration with numerous projects in the U.S. and abroad. Arrive early, we depart at 10:00am from 7495 Williams Ranch Road, Carmel.

Tuesday, September 19

Point Lobos

Our 3 to 4 mile loop with minimal elevation gain takes us along tree-clad headland trails with magnificent views and through a quiet Monterey pine forest. We are certain to see a variety of wildlife and a few wildflowers. Bring water, lunch and \$ for state park fee or a park pass. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am from Rio Road Park & Ride in Carmel.

Saturday, September 30

Oak Woodlands Walk at Hastings Reserve

Join Vince Voegeli, the Resident Director of the Hastings Reserve, on a very educational field trip. Hastings is a 2,500 acre biological field station located in upper Carmel Valley, and is part of the California Natural Reserve System. It is operated under the University of California Berkeley—Museum of Vertebrate Zoology. The drive will be picturesque and at Hastings we will learn about the property's history and some of the current research, including work on oak woodlands, acorn woodpeckers, California deer mice and geology. About 3/4 mile with minimal elevation gain. Bring water and lunch or snack. Meet at the lower parking lot of Garland Ranch before our 9:45am departure time. Car pooling is encouraged!

Saturday, October 14

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 Highway 68 at 1:30pm.

Tuesday, October 24

Garzas Creek

The Garzas Creek loop is always a lovely hike with its serene oak and redwood forests. Unwind with a few other hikers and some very quiet woodrats beside the peaceful creek in Garzas Canyon. 4 miles, 800 feet elevation gain with flora & fauna stops. Bring a snack or lunch & water. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Garland Ranch's lower parking lot. We should return around 2pm.

Monday, November 6

Del Mesa to Jacks Peak Hike

Join me in a new hike that begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From Del Mesa we'll hike into a seldom visited area, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. About 5-½ miles with ± 600 feet elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Del Mesa.

Tuesday November 21

Garzas Creek Hike

Our 3-mile loop with 530 feet elevation gain takes us along the Terrace Trail and then we'll drop down to Garzas Creek. We hope to see a nice display of polypodys, mosses, and happy lichen (depending on the rains). Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Garland Ranch's lower parking lot.

Friday, December 15

Point Lobos Fungi

Chuck Bancroft, state park ranger retired, will join CNPS leader Lynn Bomberger on a walk to explore the forest for fungal friends. On our ±2-mile walk, we will search for and photograph both fungi and mushrooms and any other unique observations. Bring a point & shoot camera, water, snack, and wear good walking shoes. Arrive early; we depart 9:45am from the Rio Road Park and Ride.

Monday, December 18

Fly Agaric Hike

We'll zig and zag through the serene pine forest of Del Monte Forest searching for the beautiful, hallucinogenic and/or deadly Fly Agaric mushrooms (red with white polka dots). Bring water; lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich. 5 miles, 750 feet elevation gain. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from the "Haul Road" gate on Highway 68 in Pebble Beach.

2016

Sunday, January 3rd

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.

Friday, January 15

Fetid Adder's Tongue Hike, Land of Medicine Buddha I

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

Tuesday, January 19

Del Monte Forest Fungi

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!). Limit of 15.

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. 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—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger.

Wednesday, April 6

Mount Madonna—from Serpentine to Redwoods Hike

Join Andy Werner on a wonderful tour of Mount Madonna County Park on the eastern slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This is a fairly strenuous but shaded hike of about 6 miles with about 1,500 feet elevation gain. We'll walk through redwoods, mixed woodland, chaparral, grasslands and much serpentine. This park is very diverse and very well maintained. Meet by 9:30am at the Sprig parking area on the left side of Hwy 152 when heading towards Gilroy. Bring lunch and water. Call Andy at 476-8616 for more information.

Friday, April 8

Garzas Creek Broomrape

Hike Our 4.5 mile awesome wildflower loop with 800 ft. elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. If we're lucky, we will see some naked broomrape in bloom. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10am from the lower parking lot in Garland Ranch in Carmel Valley. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, April 9

Introduction to Wildflower Identification—A Walk at Fort Ord

Larkspur, sky lupine, and baby blue eyes are some of the flowers we will likely see on this leisurely hike. Using mostly common names, we'll talk about wildflower identification and take the opportunity to learn about plant families, including how to identify some of the most common ones. Meet at the Creekside parking lot on Fort Ord National Monument by 10am to finish around 1pm. From Highway 68, take the River Road/Reservation Road exit and turn towards Marina on Reservation Road. After a very short distance turn left onto Portola Drive and follow the BLM signs to the parking lot. For more information contact Sue Hubbard at shubbard@redshift.com or call 444- 8645.

Wednesday, April 27

Fort Ord Spring Wildflower Hike

Come and do a wondrous 6 mile hike with little elevation gain led by Andy Werner in search of lovely spring flowers. Andy will do a scouting outing before our hike to find the best flowers—Fort Ord can have amazing flower displays. Meet by 9:30am at the Creekside parking lot on Fort Ord National Monument. From Highway 68, take the Reservation Road exit and head towards Marina on Reservation Road. After a very short distance, turn left onto Portola Drive and follow the BLM signs to the parking lot. Bring lunch and water—call Lynn for a reservation at 375-7777.

Sunday, May 1

Upper Garzas Creek Hike/BBQ Potluck

Join Al Washburn and his sidekick Bruce Delgado at Al's cabin in the woods along Garzas Creek at 2,000 feet altitude. You will have your choice of a gentle walk along the creek or a more strenuous hike up the steep surrounding hills. There will be beautiful waterfalls and riparian habitat, lush ferns, wildflowers, and probably a few mosquitoes. Meet at 9am sharp at the gated entrance to Santa Lucia Preserve on Rancho San Carlos Road off Carmel Valley Road, just past the CVAC tennis club. 4WD useful, but not required, carpooling a must. Bring potluck lunch items to share around a cooking fire. Return around 3pm. Dogs OK. Call Al at 373-4873 for a reservation or email him at awashburn8@comcast.net.

Thursday, May 5

Point Lobos Bird Island Trail & Geology Discovery

Join Jerry Loomis on a "questions encouraged" CNPS/Sierra Club discovery walk in Point Lobos. Our focus will be on birds, native plants, Native American history, geology, marine biology and anything else we might find along the trail. Jerry was a park ranger at the Point Lobos for 22 years and currently is a docent there. About 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:30am from Rio Road Park and Ride in Carmel—limit of 8.

Friday, May 6

Little Sur River Hike

Our easy hike of about 5 miles is through a redwood sorrel blanketed serene redwood forest along side the Little Sur River—basic paradise. If our timing is right, we'll see star flowers, inside-out plants and red Clintonias in bloom! Arrive early: we depart at 9:30am from the Rio Road Park & Ride—all wheel or 4WD vehicles best for the 7 mile rough road to trailhead. Can you help drive? Bring water and lunch—limit of 8.

Saturday, May 14

Late Spring Wildflower Tour, Fort Ord Nat Monument

BLM and CNPS volunteer David Styer and BLM botanist Bruce Delgado will lead this driving/hiking tour of late spring wildflowers. Total hiking 2 miles. We'll visit splendid vernal pools, oak woodland, maritime chaparral, and native grasslands where innovative habitat restoration and both goat and sheep grazing are on-going. Bring water and lunch. Meet before 10am inside Imjin Office Park located at 940 2nd Ave, Marina (BLM's new office northeast of REI). Early departures not possible due to locked gates—we'll finish ± 3pm—limit of 30 people.

Wednesday, May 18

Santa Lucia Preserve Field Trip with Chris Hauser

Chris Hauser, botanist and director of land stewardship for the Santa Lucia Conservancy, will lead a CNPS/Sierra Club FIELD TRIP in the Santa Lucia Preserve. We'll walk along the Williams Canyon dirt road to observe the beautiful plant communities and to see what's blooming. Bring water, lunch and wear good walking shoes. We'll meet by 9:30am at the Santa Lucia Conservancy office at 26700 Rancho San Carlos Road, a quarter mile south of Carmel Valley Road—limit of 15.

Saturday, May 28

Chews Ridge Wildflowers with Michael Mitchell

Join Michael Mitchell, co-author of Wildflowers of Garland Ranch—a field guide and the second edition of Corky Matthew's The Plants of Monterey County—an Illustrated Field Key on this special traditional

outing. As the highest public road in Monterey County, Chews Ridge always offers a unique variety of plants. There will be several stops with easy strolls of a mile or two. Meet in Garland Ranch lower parking lot by 9:00am; bring lunch and water—we'll return ± 5pm. All wheel or 4WD vehicles are recommended—limit of 12.

Thursday, June 9

Evening Soap Plant Quest

This 5½ mile hike with 700 feet elevation gain in Toro Park takes us through a forested valley along the Ollason trail, then up to oak dotted grasslands. If we are lucky, we will see soap plants blooming—they bloom in the late afternoon and evening. If not, we'll have a nice late day walk in the woods. Bring water and dinner. Arrive early; we depart at 4:30pm from the dirt parking area outside Toro Park—limit of 8.

Sunday, June 12

Soberanes Point Flower Walk

Join leader Bob Hale for an easy walk around the coastal bluffs of Soberanes Point and nearby coastal chaparral with an optional short detour to a monkey flower slope. A wet winter should yield a brilliant display of flowering shrubs. We'll also look at the progress of our chapter's stewardship projects on the Point. Easy 2½ miles with ±250 feet elevation change, but perhaps a bit of low poison oak. Bring water, snack and a windbreaker. Meet and leave from Rio Road Park and Ride at 9am—return around noon—limit of 8.

Saturday, July 2

Wild NW Corner of Toro Park

Join Ed Mecurio on this short but strenuous hike into a seldom-visited corner of Toro Park. Davy's centaury, Filagos, tar weeds, Chorizanthes, and others will hopefully still be blooming. If nothing else, we'll have spectacular views from steep rugged high cliffs. 4 miles with about 700 ft. gain. Bring water, lunch and good hiking boots. Call Ed for a reservation, the meeting time and meeting location at 206-0737. Limit of 8.

Wednesday, July 6

Williams Canyon Leopard Lily Walk

Chris Hauser, Santa Lucia Conservancy's botanist, will lead us on this easy walk of about 5 miles. The trail winds along Williams Creek through a serene redwood forest with very little elevation gain. We'll see a nice variety of ferns and flowers and possibly spectacular Leopard Lilies. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Santa Lucia Conservancy office parking area, 26700 Rancho San Carlos Road, Carmel by 9:30am—limit of 15.

Thursday, July 21

Cypress Grove Discovery Walk

Join Jerry Loomis on a "questions encouraged" CNPS/Sierra Club discovery walk in Point Lobos. Our focus will be on birds, native plants, Native American history, geology, marine biology and anything else we might find along the trail. Jerry was a park ranger at Point Lobos for 22 years and currently is a docent there. About 2 miles with minimal elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00am from Rio Road Park and Ride in Carmel—limit of 8.

Wednesday, August 24

Garzas Creek Hike

Escape your daily grind; slip into serene oak and redwood forests. Unwind with a few other happy hikers and some very quiet woodrats along the Garzas Creek, Garzas Canyon and the Terrace Trails in Garland Ranch. 4 miles, 800 ft. gain with flora & fauna stops. Bring a lunch and water. Arrive early; we depart at 10am from the lower parking lot at Garland Ranch. Call for a reservation—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, September 21

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 lollipop 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—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger.

Saturday, October 8

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.

Thursday, November 3

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—limit of 8.

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Sun Nov 13 & Tues. Dec. 27

Del Mesa Carmel to Jacks Peak Park

Join me in a new hike that begins at Del Mesa Carmel in Carmel Valley. From Del Mesa we'll hike into a seldom visited area, then into Jacks Peak Park and back. We'll have a peaceful forest walk with great views along the way. About 5-½ miles with ± 600 feet elevation gain. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early;

we depart at 10:00am from Del Mesa. Call for a reservation and directions to the meeting location—limit of 8. Leader: Lynn Bomberger.

Wednesday, December 14

Fairytale Fly Agarics of Del Monte Forest

Some years we get skunked and some years we're awestruck by the beauty of these amazing giant red mushrooms with white polka dots. Let's go see what's out there. Either way, we'll have a nice Calendar of Field Trips & Events Continued on Page 3 November/December 2016, Page 3 Scientific Illustration of the White-Lined Sphinx Moth by Brooke Weiland walk in a beautiful forest. Bring water; lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich. 5-½ miles, 750 feet elevation gain. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30am from the 'Haul Road' gate on Highway 68 in Pebble Beach.