



Erysimum menziesii

The Wallflower

The Newsletter of the California Native Plant Society
Monterey Bay Chapter

<https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/>

Sept/Oct 2020

CNPS Chapter Online Plant Sale Discussion Program Speaker: Maya Argaman

Maya Argaman is the new CNPS State Horticulture Outreach Coordinator and started this position right as COVID hit California! She has been busy getting acquainted with all of CNPS's horticulture related programs and has recently taken on the task of helping chapters transition to online plant sales in the spring and fall. In this meeting, she will go over how to use the new website to purchase plants and discuss the process of working with chapters to bring their sales online! She will also go over how to use Calscape to choose plants that fit your gardening needs.

Maya grew up in Marin County spending her time surfing, hiking on ring mountain and amongst the coastal redwoods, and biking on Mount Tamalpais. She graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Environmental Science and Management, where she fell in love with native plants in both the natural and built environment. Before CNPS, she was a field technician for both the Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico and the Forest Service in the Sierra Nevadas. She most recently worked as a landscape designer in the San Francisco Bay area.

Because the Chapter is still observing the COVID-19 directives to avoid large gatherings of people, we'll have a presentation using Zoom in lieu of a regular chapter meeting at the Pacific Grove Museum. You can watch the lecture at home on your computer. The Zoom link will be posted on the Chapter's website, <https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/> and sent a day or two in advance in an eblast.

The Zoom presentation will start at 7:30 and you'll need to login to the web link with the instructions that will be available on the Chapter website and sent in the eblast.

Presentation will be Thursday, Sept 10 at 7:30pm

STEWARDSHIP

Because of restrictions on groups still mandated by the state, county, CNPS, and/or Meetup, we are still eliminating group stewardship events at this time.

ONLINE PLANT SALE

Annual Plant Sale

Native Plant Sales in the Age of COVID-19

Life has changed an awful lot since the last time we prepared for our annual **Fall Native Plant Sale**, so much so, that we are only sure of a few things regarding this year's sale. One, it *will not* be a one day, in-person free for all with jousting wheelbarrows, new and old friends, and lots of plant talk. And two, it *will* be a first for us; it will be an **Online Native Plant Store**.

Online, you will be able to leisurely browse the plants (without someone asking you to move over so they can reach for the plants in front of you), place your order, pay for your order, and receive an automatic confirmation of availability. And then, at your given appointment time, you may pick up your plants from our usual sale site at MEarth in Carmel where mask-wearing volunteers will help you load your plants.

There are more details to hammer out. Stay tuned for specifics on when the online store will open and when pickups will begin. Maya Argaman, our new State CNPS Horticulture Outreach coordinator, Brian LeNeve, and Pat Regan will share more details during our next Zoom General meeting on September 10. Please see the preceding article titled, "CNPS Chapter Online Plant Sale Discussion."

TIME CHANGES EVERYTHING



At age 75 and after ten years as Newsletter Editor and Field Trip Chair for CNPS, I have decided to move on and no longer hold these positions. They have been a wonderful part of my life, but time changes everything.

We are looking for volunteers to take over these jobs. Besides

being enjoyable, they are a nice contribution to our CNPS chapter. If you have an interest in becoming Newsletter Editor or Field Trip Chair, please contact me at 375-7777.

I hope to see you soon on the trail!

Lynn Bomberger

FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

Because of restrictions on groups still mandated by the state, county, CNPS, and/or Meetup, we still are not able to have field trips at this time.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Go to <https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/conservation/> for more information on conservation issues.

Defending the Del Rey Oaks Habitat Reserve: The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) sunset on June 30, 2020, and the Chapter's lawsuit to protect Plant Reserve 1 North is now with the City of Del Rey Oaks (DRO). DRO received \$8.8 million from FORA for improvements to South Boundary Road and we believe the City has assumed responsibility to move forward with the road realignment project. The current road design is currently planned to go right through the 4.63-acre Plant Reserve with a new round-about at General Jim Moore Blvd. CNPS has repeatedly requested mediation to resolve the issue and formally asked the DRO City Council to move the intersection a few hundred feet to the north in order to avoid the Reserve, however the Council did not agree to change their existing road plans nor have they agreed to mediation. The Reserve was identified as a mitigation site for extending General Jim Moore Blvd. to Highway 218 back in 1999.

GARDENING WITH NATIVES



The fall bloom of California fuchsia 'Carmen's Grey' and spires of deer grass support a simple but bold look for the change of seasons. Our native fuchsias are hummingbird 'magnets' and provide much needed nectar at a time when many other species' blooms are spent. Photo by Peigi Duvall.

Please contact Peigi Duvall, Horticulture Co-chair, at (605)704-3926 or peigidv@indigdesign.com. To show-case your native garden!

ARTICLES, REQUESTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

TRUSTS, WILLS AND BEQUESTS

Thinking of a Legacy Gift for CNPS? Consider the Monterey Bay Chapter of CNPS in your trust or will to help continue our

important work conserving native plants on the Central Coast. Be sure to specify the Monterey Bay Chapter, P.O. Box 221303, Carmel, CA 93922, as the recipient of your bequest otherwise, your gift will go to the state CNPS. Thank You!

ARE YOU MOVING?

If so, please let us know. Contact our Membership Chair, Brian LeNeve, at brian@brianleneve.com or 624-8497.

CAN YOU HELP?

Our long-time Treasurer, Jim Pittman, will be retiring from his CNPS duties soon and the Chapter will need a new Treasurer. High math is not a requirement, just a penchant for detail. The Treasurer prepares quarterly summaries and keeps the Chapter's checkbook. Please call Lynn Bomberger at 375-7777 or Carol LeNeve at 624-8497 if you can help.

YOUNG STEELHEAD TROUT RESCUE



Did you know that Brian LeNeve, our CNPS branch president, is also the president of the Carmel River Steelhead Association? Brian is shown above with an electric backpack helping to rescue young steelhead trout in the Cachagua Creek. 311 young steelhead were rescued that day and a total of 16,521 were rescued in 2020!

The following is an article that Brian wrote for the Carmel River Steelhead Association newsletter.

Fish Rescues in a Pandemic

By Brian LeNeve

I have mentioned before that the Carmel River Steelhead Association did receive a permit to rescue stranded steelhead this year, but we were somewhat hampered by the whole COVID-19 problem. We agonized for a while and came up with a plan to minimize exposure by primarily working only with people who have rescued in the past, dedicating boots and gloves to the regular crew, daily temperature checks, no carpooling, hand sanitizer available, and masks required at all times. After getting used to the new normal, we had a very well-oiled machine where 27 different people (some only observers) volunteered 170-man days for 892 hours and made 28 rescues overall.

With rescuing two creeks on the same day several times, we rescued Cachagua Creek 25 times, Finch Creek seven times and James Creek twice. We rescued 10,238 fish from the Earth Station Bridge on Cachagua to where Finch and James Creeks come together to form Cachagua Creek. We rescued 356 fish on tiny James Creek and 1,588 fish on Finch Creek for a total of 12,182 fish. We rescued 1,809 fish over one-year-old on

Cachagua, 820 fish over one-year-old on Finch and two on James for a total of 2,631 fish over one-year-old.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) rescues Cachagua from the confluence of the Carmel River to the Earth Station Bridge and they rescued 4,339 fish with 79 fish over one-year-old, bringing the total fish rescued on the whole Cachagua watershed to 16,521 fish of which 2,710 were over one-year-old. This was the second largest number of fish rescued in my records, only surpassed by last year.



Above, Jim Jeffery III also known as JJ and the winner of this year's Golden Net Award, demonstrates the happy ending for the rescued young steelhead. They are released below the Los Padres dam where there is water year round.

With the lagoon possibly developing into poor quality fish habitat and per our permit, all of the CRSA rescued fish were released at two locations on the Carmel River below the confluence of the Carmel and Cachagua and the MPWMD fish were released in the Carmel either at the confluence or just above the confluence.

I mention the fish over one-year-old (technically called age 1+) because they have already proven they are survivors escaping predators and other fish killing events for over a year, thereby increasing the chance they will survive to reproduce. This was the largest number of fish age 1+ I have a record of, surpassing the 2,441 rescued in 2012. It also is more about some of Cachagua and a lot of Finch running all year last year than it is about individual fish surviving. Next year we will rescue very few age 1+ fish because all of Cachagua, all of James and all but 1/3 mile of Finch Creek are already dry in the middle of August. It does not matter how strong a fish is or how adapted it is, when the creek goes dry, they all die. It is nice to imagine what the creeks would look like with water every year.

In October last year, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) did two fall steelhead population surveys on Finch Creek in areas CRSA did not rescue. One site was on the

Harkins property low down on Finch Creek and the other site was on Hastings in the middle of Finch Creek. The number of fish counted, while very much in keeping with the number of fish rescued from other parts of Cachagua and Finch, was outstanding. They counted 1.5 fish per meter on Finch Creek while on the Carmel River during the same time, only 0.25 to 0.45 fish per meter were recorded. Finch Creek had 1.3 to 6 times more fish per meter than the Carmel. My understanding is 1.5 is not outstanding for a river but really outstanding for a small creek, while 0.25 to 0.45 fish is very poor for any river but typical for the Carmel. Not to beat a dead horse, but this shows just how important Cachagua Creek really is and why we need to keep it running.

The reason I bring this up is NMFS installed PIT tags on a number of fish they captured (I do not know how many). MPWMD recaptured two of the tagged fish and CRSA recaptured 16 fish. One of the MPWMD fish was tagged on the Hastings site and it moved all the way down Finch and most of Cachagua. I do not know about the second MPWMD fish. Of the fish CRSA recaptured one was tagged on Harkins property and it moved upstream to Hastings. One fish was tagged on Hastings and it moved down to Harkins, the other 14 were recaptured within 100 yards of where they were tagged. The more I learn about steelhead the more I am baffled and the more I realize we (especially I) need to know. The one fish that moved upstream about two miles probably is or is becoming a resident trout. The two fish that moved down a little I am not sure about but the 14 that did not move at all really goes against what I think of as normal steelhead behavior which is starting to move downstream right after they are born to eventually move out to sea. If that is the case, why did 14 of 18 fish not move? If staying in Cachagua for a year is normal behavior then with Cachagua drying so many years, not many will survive to return as adults making our rescues even more important. All of this just increases my desire to learn more.

All in all, I feel this was a very successful rescue season. We saved lot of fish from dying, added to the chance some of them will return as adults, and collected a lot of information that starts to increase our understanding of Cachagua/James/Finch creeks and how fish use the creek.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Golden Net Award. Last year I instituted an award for the person I feel was the hardest worker, most dedicated, and most enjoyable on rescues that year plus the person we would miss the most if he/she did not come. This year, the Golden Net Award goes to JJ, Jim Jeffery III, who made 24 of the 28 rescues and was always willing to do any job, regardless of how difficult, that we needed him to do. Jim, thanks from all the crew for a job well done!



Helpful CNPS Information Page

CNPS is dedicated to Preserving and Protecting California Native Plants and Their Habitats

When field trips are again allowed, you must register for them online at:

www.meetup.com/The-Monterey-Bay-Area-Hiking-Group

Meeting times, locations, and more details will be on the above Meetup.

Field trips will most likely be posted on the above Meetup by individual leaders when Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

The Next Publication of *The Wallflower*

Newsletter Deadline
November/December Monday, October 19

Articles received after the deadline
will not be published.

Check Out Our Websites

Monterey Bay Chapter:

<https://chapters.cnps.org/montereybay/>

State Organization: www.cnps.org

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Book Sales: *Carol LeNeve, ccleneve@att.net, 624-8497

Conservation: *Donna Burych, dburych@comcast.net, 646-9357

Field Trips: Help needed

Horticulture: *Patrick Regan, Co-chair, patrick@reganbhc.com,
747-7756 and *Peigi Duvall, Co-chair, 650-704-3926,
peigidv@indigdesign.com

Hospitality: *Rosemary Foster, rf4mbcnps@att.net, 277-8081

Local Flora: *Jim Pittman, jmpittman22@gmail.com, 726-1768
,19180,El Cerrito Way, Aromas, CA 95004

Membership: *Brian LeNeve, brian@brianleneve.com, 624-8497

Newsletter Editor: Help needed

Newsletter Proofreader: Cath Tendler, eyebabe@aol.com,
521-0434

Past President: *Nikki Nedeff, nikki@ventanaview.net, 320-9463

Plant Sale: *Patrick Regan (see Horticulture)

President: *Brian LeNeve, brian@brianleneve.com, 624-8497

Programs: Daian Hennington, daian.hennington@gmail.com,
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Secretary: *Robert Hale, hale@nps.edu, 656-3108

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Treasurer: *Jim Pittman (see Local Flora)

Vice President: *Patrick Regan (see Horticulture)

Web Master: *Brian Edwards, bcedwards8@gmail.com,
(310) 927-2493

Wildflower Show: *Brian LeNeve (see Membership)

*Board Members

Join CNPS Today!

You may also join online at www.cnps.org

★ Print very clearly, please. ★

Name _____

Address _____

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Chapter (County) Affiliation _____

Individual Membership Levels:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income — \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron — \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual — \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor — \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Lover — \$120 | There are more options online |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter — \$500 | including Business and Library. |

Please mail this membership form with payment to:

Brian LeNeve, CNPS Monterey Bay Membership
PO Box 1012, Carmel, CA 93921

Dues and gifts to CNPS are tax deductible.