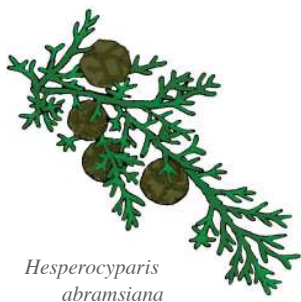




THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 44, Number 2 cruzcnp.org March - April 2019

New Calflora Tools for CNPS Users

Speaker: Cynthia Powell - Executive Director of Calflora

Chapter General Meeting: Monday, March 11, 7:30 pm

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Keying Session: 5:30 pm

Join Calflora's Executive Director Cynthia Powell to learn about several exciting new Calflora tools. Calflora's plant database hosts over 2.5 million plant occurrences, some of which come directly from Santa Cruz CNPS members. Cynthia will go over Calflora's new plant photo project, planting guide, population monitoring tools, and email alerts and speak more generally about the uses of Calflora for CNPS chapters. She will also seek your input on how Calflora can better serve the CNPS Chapters while answering any of your questions on functionality. Bring your plant lists and/or georeferenced photos on a thumb drive to get your observations into the Calflora database!

After three years as Calflora's GIS Project Manager, Cynthia has been Calflora's Executive Director for 2.5 years. She graduated with her MS in GIS in 2010, forecasting Mokelumne River water supply based on remote-sensing snowpack images. She's been examining what was under that snow—plants—ever since. She now coordinates all Calflora programs, research, outreach, and advocacy, as well as fundraising and management.



Pinus sabiniana. Photo by ©Cynthia Powell, courtesy of Calflora

Special Calflora-CNPS Field Trip: Tuesday, March 12, 9:00-11:30 am

All who attend the public meeting on Monday evening are invited to try out their plant observation skills with Cynthia on a field trip to record plants in Henry Cowell State Park. We are requiring attendance at the meeting before the trip to avoid repetition of instructions for using Calflora while we are in the field. Andy Werner will be co-leading the trip as he knows Henry Cowell especially well. Meet at the Juvenile Hall parking lot on Graham Hill Road.



From left to right: *Dodecatheon hendersonii* ©Keir Morse, *Woodwardia fimbriata* ©John W. Wall, and *Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia* ©Steve Matson. All photos are copyrighted by the photographers listed and are used courtesy of Calflora

Save the Dudleya! There's been a lot of news lately about the proliferation of *Dudleya* poaching along the California Coast. One recent case in Monterey County highlighted the importance of regular citizens being aware of the problem and calling the state's CalTIP anonymous reporting line. If you see poaching or polluting, please call 1-888-334-2258, or text "CALTIP" and a message to 847411 (tip411).

Pilkington Creek Restoration at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

During the native plant sale put on by the Santa Cruz County Chapter of CNPS in October 2018, Jeb Bishop, a long-time volunteer with the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History and CNPS member, purchased 25 plants to install in Tyrrell Park as part of the Pilkington Creek Restoration program. The plants were paid for by the city arborist, Leslie Keedy, with city funds. Volunteers have put in over 2,400 hours pulling non-native plants, picking up garbage, and planting natives to restore both the riparian area along the creek and the coastal prairie habitat in front of the museum.

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's habitat restoration program began in 2010 when Nancy Lenz collaborated with Andrew Eisenberg (City of Santa Cruz Parks Department) to write a proposal to obtain funding. Pilkington Creek riparian area was filled with non-native and often invasive plants such as English ivy, Himalayan blackberry, periwinkle, and many others, as well as garbage. A fruit orchard occupied the area that is now lawn. The City of Santa Cruz, State Water Resources Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife all required the museum to obtain permits for the restoration in the riparian strip. The hard physical work started after the museum received a \$950 grant from the Chuck Haugen Conservation Fund and enthusiastic support from CalFire, the City of Santa Cruz, CNPS, and other local organizations.



Native Phacelia californica flagged in foreground, and invasive Nasturtium in background. Photo by Ruthe Smith

When the first steps of pulling of invasive plants began, the change was dramatic and the habitat was transformed from a simple one to a more complex one. Great mats of ivy and brambles of blackberry were removed resulting in more light that reached the soil. With the new light, the non-native seed bank responded with vigor. Most of the ivy and non-native blackberry are gone now, but the old seed bank continues to sprout new non-native seedlings, and it will probably continue that way for a while. Nasturtium, Vinca, slender oats, panic veldt grass, Italian rye grass, and many others continue to sprout after being pulled many times in the same area.

In the meantime, Jeb Bishop, Nancy Lenz, and a large contingent of volunteers continue to pull non-natives and plant natives that are suitable for the area. Besides the commitment of the museum to keep the program going, this tremendous amount of work is not possible without the support of several other local organizations including Santa Cruz CityServe Volunteer Center,



Jeb Bishop examining native plants in the Pilkington Creek Restoration area. Photo by Ruthe Smith

Earth Stewards, Groundswell Coastal Ecology, UC Master Gardeners of Monterey Bay, the City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department, and of course, the Santa Cruz County Chapter of CNPS. The native plant restoration program at the museum serves as a model for other projects around the city.

Ceanothus, lupine, dogwood, creeping wild rye, snowberry, and wild ginger are just several of the myriad native species you can find today in the Pilkington Creek coastal riparian area. Colored flags in the riparian area mark spots where smaller native plants have been planted so that volunteers don't accidentally step on them or pull them out. If you would like to help the restoration effort at the museum, please go to www.santacruzmuseum.org and go to their "Get Involved" page.

Spring Native Plant Sale Saturday April 13, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

We will once again be partnering with the UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden at their new sale site and parking lot.



CNPS members and/or Arboretum members can purchase plants from 10am to noon. If you do not have a membership to either organization, one can be purchased at the gate for those desiring to get in on the action early. Non-members can start shopping at noon.

Come to the plant sale early for best selection of your favorites.

**Check our website after
4/8 for a list of plants
we'll have for sale.
www.cruzcnp.org**

Photo by Jackie Pascoe

Certificates of Appreciation presented by Ventura U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office to three chapter members

At our monthly chapter meeting in September 2018, Connie Rutherford, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recognized three of our members for their decades of work on behalf of the conservation of rare species and habitats in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties.



Left photo: Connie Rutherford, center, presents certificates to Val Haley, left, Suzanne Schettler, right; and Right photo: Connie presents certificate to Vince Cheap. Photos by Linda Brodman and Connie Rutherford



Since the time the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office came into being in 1990, its staff has had the opportunity to work with Suzanne Schettler, Val Haley, and Vince Cheap on numerous projects that have contributed to maintaining the biological diversity of the area ranging from Fort Ord to the Santa Cruz Mountains. Collectively, their expertise in the ecology of specific taxa, including Santa Cruz tarplant, the spineflowers, Scotts Valley polygonum, the sandhill species, Santa Cruz cypress, and Monterey clover, just to name a few, has contributed to the scientific integrity of the Service's listing rules, critical habitat rules, recovery plans, five-year reviews, and recovery actions.

These three not only were generous with their time, but time spent in the field with them always provided new insights. For their innumerable contributions to the field of conservation, the Service presented them with Certificates of Appreciation.

Santa Cruz County Chapter Field Trips

Calero Park Lower Serpentine area with Andy Werner. Sunday, April 7, 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

This will be a nice field trip search for wildflowers in Santa Clara County. The walk is no more than 4 miles and less than 400 feet gain in elevation. Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch.

Directions: Hwy 17 to Hwy 85S to Hwy 101S to Right on Bailey Ave to where it T-bones at McKean Rd. Turn Right on McKean and go about 2 miles to the parking lot on the Left, almost directly across from Fortini Rd. Heavy rain cancels.

Participation will be limited to 10 people, so **RSVP Andy Werner at apwerner44@gmail.com soon!**

Fort Ord National Monument with Andy Werner. Sunday, April 21, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

We'll again be searching for spring wildflowers but this time in Monterey County. The walk is about 6 miles with about 400 feet gain in elevation. Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch.

Directions: Meet at the Fort Ord National Monument Terrace Creek Parking Lot. Heavy rain cancels.

Participation will be limited to 10 people, so **RSVP Andy Werner at apwerner44@gmail.com soon!**

Andy has two other field trips planned for April 2nd and 17th, and we may have more restoration days, as well. **Check our website at www.cruznps.org for additional dates and all the details.**

Please Note: Carpooling is encouraged but not sponsored by CNPS.

Habitat Restoration Team

Friday, March 8, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Saturday, March 16, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Venue to be determined

We are a volunteer group working to restore native habitat in the parks and protected lands in Santa Cruz County. Our program provides an opportunity for people to learn about the natural systems that surround them while helping to restore special and wild places.

No prior work experience is necessary, just show up at the park. We welcome individual volunteers from 8 to 80 years, as well as special group projects. Wear comfortable layered clothing, bring something to drink, and lots of enthusiasm! We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Tools are provided; bring gloves.

Contact: **Program Leader, Linda Brodman**
831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

Come Out and Enjoy the Spring With Us!



Deanna Giuliano led a field trip at Henry Cowell State Park on February 23rd, a beautiful day in between our recent rain events. Photos courtesy of Julia Davenport.



Elfin Saddle

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Santa Cruz County Chapter
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Membership News

Welcome to our newest Santa Cruz
Chapter members :

Melissa Trinidad
Tori Bauman
Lucy Tompkin
Samantha Spurlin
Natalie Dean
Terence Welch
Rhea Giroux

We hope everyone has been able to get out
and about to enjoy Santa Cruz County's
biodiversity during the rain breaks.

Come see us at the April 13th
Native Plant Sale, rain or shine!

Note: Any member who would prefer to receive the
Cypress Cone digitally, drop Ann Garside a line at
anng@calcentral.com to make the switch. Thanks!

Spring Native Plant Sale Saturday April 13 10:00 am to 4:00 pm



Iris douglasiana. Photo by Jackie Pascoe

Join the California Native Plant Society

Your membership includes *Fremontia*, a journal with articles
on all aspects of native plants; *Flora*, CNPS's new magazine
presenting a statewide report of activities and schedules; and
The Cypress Cone.

Fill out the form below, or go to www.cnps.org and
join or renew your membership online.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____

- ☐ Student/Limited Income \$25
- ☐ Individual \$45
- ☐ Family or Library \$75
- ☐ Plant Lover \$100
- ☐ Patron \$300
- ☐ Benefactor \$600
- ☐ Mariposa Lily \$1500

Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

Membership Chair, CNPS,
2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento, CA 95816

Like us on Facebook

Contribute to our group! Search for "Santa Cruz County
Chapter - California Native Plant Society." Ask a question
about native plants or post your own photos of native plants
in your yard or on your hikes.

Opt for email

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email only,
please contact Ann at anng@calcentral.com and let her know
your preference.

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora.

CNPS has 34 chapters throughout the state and membership
is open to all persons – professional and amateur – with an
interest in California's native plants and other activities such
as natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photogra-
phy, drawing, hiking, and gardening.

Donations are tax-deductible and support special projects
such as publication of the county Checklist, and conservation
activities that preserve important habitats and species in our
area. You may earmark gifts for specific areas. (Your mem-
bership is also tax deductible, minus \$12 for the journal *Fre-
montia*, three issues per year.) Make checks payable to CNPS
and send to: CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.