



THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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cruzcnp.org

Spring 2024

Celebrating the Plants and Animals of Central California

Chapter General Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2024

Speaker: Megan Gnekow

Mystery Plant ID 6:00 to 6:45 pm

Bring your curiosity and unknown plant,
and we will try to identify it with you.

General Meeting: 7:00 pm

Location: UCSC Arboretum and
Botanic Garden

Our featured speaker Megan Gnekow will share artwork she has created over the past several years that celebrates the plants and animals of Central California, from Bodega Head to Point Sur, from the Farallones to the Diablo Range. She will share her inspirations and dive into the process of creating each piece of artwork. Her talk will focus on ecological relationships that support threatened, endangered, and rare species.

Megan's art has always been about storytelling and uncovering hidden connections. Her current work focuses on special-status species of Central California and how landscape-level conservation and restoration are necessary to protect the incredible biodiversity of the region.

Megan Gnekow earned an undergraduate degree in art from Portland State University and a Graduate Certificate in Science Illustration from UC Santa Cruz. She has participated in Artist in Residence programs at the Palomarin Field Station, Elkhorn Slough, and the Plumas National Forest. Her illustration clients

include Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Pinnacles National Park, the Filoli Center, and various private individuals. Megan continues her work as a professional illustrator and amateur naturalist, honing her skills through exploration of the collection of ecosystems we call California.

You can find Megan's artwork at www.sevenravensstudio.com and follow along on her adventures on social media @seven_ravens_studio.



Megan Gnekow sitting among manzanitas on Pine Mountain, Marin County. Photo: Paul G. Johnson



Prez Sez

Linda Brodman

I attended a recent California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Public Affairs presentation focusing on Chapter Collaboration. One of the major and exciting highlights coming up is California Native Plant Week. It will be celebrated from April 13-20, and the State CNPS is inviting you to participate in **8 Days of Action for Native Plants**. From gardening with local plants to timely advocacy, CNPS will unveil a new action each day to help you deepen your relationship with native plants. More about the 8 Days of Action and CNPS chapter events at cnp.org/celebrate.

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday April 13

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

NEW LOCATION!

**Cabrillo College
Horticulture Center**

See page 3 for details

Our Chapter will have some local action starting with our Spring Plant Sale on April 13, followed by a field trip to Calero County Park on April 18 for views of serpentine flora, and a stewardship project at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park on April 20. Read the newsletter for details.

(cont. on page 2)

Field Trips

Calero County Park with Andy Werner

Thursday, April 18, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Join Andy Werner on a hike up to one of the nicest serpentine loops and wildflower displays in the Santa Cruz Mountains. There are some steep climbs on this hike, but worth it. Elevation change ~1000 feet, and distance about 6.1 miles. We will hike at a moderate pace. Meet at the Main Entrance of Calero Park at 9:30 am. From Santa Cruz take Hwy 17 to Hwy 85 to Hwy 101 and exit at Bailey Ave. Take Bailey to McKean Rd. and turn left at the stop sign. The park entrance is ~ one half 1/2 mile, and turn right into the park. Meet at the gravel parking lot by park headquarters with portapotties nearby. Bring lunch, water, and a hiking pole. We should be back to the cars by 2:00 pm. Limit to 10 people. To sign up and ask questions, contact Andy at apwerner44@gmail.com. No dogs please.

Quail Hollow with Grace Brieger and Deanna Giuliano

Saturday, April 27, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Hike one of our treasured county parks in Santa Cruz, Quail Hollow Ranch, through a variety of habitats: woodland, chaparral and some sandhills. We will climb to the top to view the pygmy redwoods and the valley below, and maybe some ocean too. We will return down the Wood Rat Trail going through some small grasslands, woodlands and chaparral. Some of the treasures to be seen include *Arctostaphylos silvicola*, *Lupinus latifolius*, *Chorizanthe pungens*, *Silene verecunda*, and a variety of *Trifoliums*. Hike will be moderate, with some elevation gain of about 550 feet and 3 1/2 to 4 miles. Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch. Meet at Quail Hollow Ranch parking lot, 800 Quail Hollow Road.

Contact Deanna Giuliano at drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or 831 278-2699 for more information.

Mt. Madonna County Park with Andy Werner

Thursday, May 16, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm

Come out with Andy to Mt. Madonna on the eastern side of the southern Santa Cruz Mountains. We'll see three plus species of Mariposa lilies, jewelflowers, maybe candy flowers and lots more in this serpentine park which includes redwoods, mixed oak/bay woodland, chaparral, and grassland. We will hike at a moderate pace; distance about 6.2 miles or so; it will be steep at times with an elevation gain of 1300 feet. Meet at the Sprig Trail parking area on Hwy 152 at 9:30 am. We will return to the parking lot before 2:00 pm. Bring a lunch, sturdy hiking shoes, a hiking pole and water. Limit to ten people. To sign up and ask questions, contact Andy at apwerner44@gmail.com. No dogs please.

Habitat Restoration Projects

Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Saturday, April 20, 2024 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

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 event.

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 provided, bring gloves. Contact Restoration Program Leader Linda Brodman for questions and future projects at redwdrn@pacbell.net.

Calochortus tolmiei,
pussy ears, Tolmei's star tulip.
Photo: Andy Werner



Prez Sez (cont. from page 1)

Why do native plants get

an entire week? Because California is a remarkable place for plants, with more than 6,000 types of native plants, more than any other state in the nation. California belongs to one of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots, places with a high concentration of species that live nowhere else, many of which are threatened by habitat loss and human intrusion. In recognition of California's globally significant plants, the Legislature enshrined the third week of April as California Native Plant Week. There's no better time to focus on native plants around you!

An appreciation for our state's remarkable plant life doesn't end in one week. It continues through spring blooms, dry summers, rain showers, and winter snow. California's native plants have evolved over thousands of years to be perfectly adapted to California's diverse climates and ecosystems. Wherever you go in the state, you'll find native plants. So get out there!

At our last public meeting, we elected our 2024 Board, however we still need more help. I have said this many times, but there is only so much we can do and there is lots more to do! All Chapter members may run for office and/or be involved on the leadership team. You don't need to be a board member. There are many ways to contribute, such as helping with tasks involving conservation, web site expertise, and serving on a committee. Want to get involved? Please contact me at redwdrn@pacbell.net.

CNPS Santa Cruz County Chapter and Cabrillo College Horticulture Collaborate!

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday April 13, 10 am to 1 pm

Cabrillo College Horticulture Center

Last summer's relocation of our propagation program from its longtime home at Suncrest Nurseries to its new venue at the Cabrillo Horticulture Center involved significant changes and challenges for both the Propagation Team members and plant sale planners. Many hands pitched in to pull together the Fall 2023 Plant Sale, including longtime chapter leadership and several unsuspecting "draftees" conscripted to handle the logistics of moving the plants from Cabrillo to the Arboretum. While the fall sale brought record sales – thank you loyal plant sale shoppers – that model proved unsustainable, so the team began considering alternative venue options.

Fortunately for us the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department is no stranger to hosting plant sales; many fondly recall their legendary Mother's Day weekend sales which ran for decades. Thanks to the great partnership with our hosts, we are pleased to announce the Chapter's 2024 Spring Plant Sale will be held at the Cabrillo College Horticulture Center located at the top of campus. Our thanks go out to the Horticulture Department leadership, instructors, and team members involved.

Our Spring Plant Sale will feature a wide range of springtime bloomers including a great selection of annual wildflowers and spring flowering bulbs (*Allium*, *Brodiaea*,



Allium unifolium, one-leaf onion.
Photo: Kari Olsen



Gilia tricolor, bird's eyes gilia. Photo: Andy Werner

Dichelostemma, *Dipterostemon* and *Triteleia* spp.) which provide instant garden color and diversity for pollinators. Many of these annuals and bulbs have been grown from locally sourced seed; look for "We're Local!" signs.



Dichelostemma ida-maia, firecracker brodiaea.
Photo: Kari Olsen

Plant Sale Bonus!

Two sales in one! The Cabrillo Horticulture Department will be selling plants the morning of our sale. Be sure to check out their great selection of succulents, cacti, organic veggie starts and pollinator-friendly seasonal color.

As usual, we will have lots of plants in our most popular genera: *Iris*, *Sisyrinchium*, *Achillea*, *Diplacus*, and *Symphoricarpos*. Please check the chapter's website (cruz.cnps.org) and Facebook group page for additional information including directions to the Cabrillo Horticulture Center and the plant sale availability list which will be posted one week prior to the sale date.

As always, getting there early is key to the best plant selection! —Kari Olsen



Students in Cabrillo College's Crop Production class get creative extracting CNPS spring annual wildflowers from plug trays sown in January. It's not as easy as it sounds!
Photo: Kari Olsen

Cabrillo students get hands-on experience transplanting CNPS plants as part of an on-site lab focusing on nursery plant production.
Photo: Kari Olsen



California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
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Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks



Calochortus argillosus,
clay mariposa lily.
Photo: Linda Brodman

Spring Plant Sale
Saturday April 13
10:00 am to 1:00 pm
NEW LOCATION!
Cabrillo College
Horticulture Center

Come early for best selection

*Plant sale availability list one week
before at cruz.cnps.org*

Join the California Native Plant Society!

Your membership includes: *Artemisia* scientific journal filled with articles on all aspects of native plants, *Flora* magazine presenting statewide activities and schedules, and Santa Cruz County Chapter newsletter *The Cypress Cone*.

Fill out the form below or visit the state CNPS website (www.cnps.org) to join or renew your membership online. State your chapter affiliation as the Santa Cruz County Chapter.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter affiliation: _____

Choose One:

Student/Fixed Income \$25

Individual \$50

Plant Lover \$120 (two members)

Supporter \$500 (two members)

Patron \$1,000 (two members, plus Special Updates)

Benefactor \$2,500 same as above

Steward \$5,000 same as above

Guardian \$10,000 same as above

Please make your check payable to CNPS and send to:
California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership, 2707 K Street,
Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130

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 or log onto your CNPS account (cnps.org) to make the switch.

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

CNPS has thirty-five 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, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening.

Donations are tax-deductible and support locally special projects such as publication of the *County Checklist* and conservation activities that preserve important habitats and rare species in our area. You may earmark gifts for specific areas. Please make donation checks payable to CNPS and send to: Santa Cruz County Chapter CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

Website: www.cruzcnps.org. For inquiries email: santacruzcounty@cnps.org