

THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 48, Number 3

cruzcnp.org

Fall 2023

The Randall Morgan Sandhills Preserve: A Journey from Quarry to Paradise

Speaker: Peggy Edwards

Chapter General Meeting

Monday, October 9, 2023

Plant Keying Session with

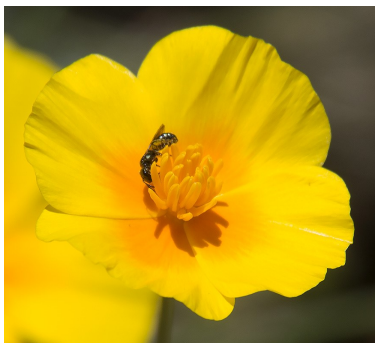
Deanna Giuliano: 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Come have some fun and challenges learning about the family Asteraceae with all its interesting botanical parts—ray, ligulate, disc, involucre bract, and many more—oh my!

General Meeting: 7:00 pm

Join Peggy Edwards on a journey spanning sixty years as she tells the tale of the Randall Morgan Sandhills Preserve from a neighboring landowner's perspective. As a child Peggy explored the sand quarry digging for fossils and jumping off conveyor belts as the quarry expanded up to the very edge of her family's land. After its purchase by a venture capitalist the quarry land was then proposed as a golf course, a housing development, and even for the new Scotts Valley High School. Meanwhile Randy Morgan and several other determined enthusiasts refused to give up on the vision of what the quarry could be under the patronage of the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Peggy Edwards lives on land that her family has owned since 1921, land now bordered by the Randall Morgan Sandhills Preserve on three sides. As a child she spent many hours developing a familiarity with and love for the sandhills. Peggy went on to earn a B.S. at University of California, Berkeley, moving from there to the Sierra Nevada where she worked as a field botanist and ranger naturalist for Stanislaus National Forest. She then earned a K-12 Teaching



Eschscholzia californica. Sandhills ecotype. California poppy.
Photo: Peggy Edwards

Credential at University of San Francisco. After moving back to the family's land in Scotts Valley, Peggy worked as an independent study teacher while attending UCSC's program in Natural Science Illustration. Peggy spends her time teaching Botanical and Science Illustration in her art studio (Sierra Nature Prints) and illustrating for clients such as the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife while writing and illustrating articles for various publications.



Eriogonum nudum var. *decurrens*.
Ben Lomond buckwheat. Photo: Peggy Edwards

FABULOUS FALL PLANT SALE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 14

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

See page 3 for details

Prez Sez

Linda Brodman

Unforeseen surprises. Our chapter surely has met one, as you will read about our propagation program changes. Kari Olsen has done a remarkable job getting our plants situated in their new (temporary) home at Cabrillo College's Horticulture Center, thanks to many helpful hands. See page 3 for more.

State CNPS News

CNPS Annual Report now available online. Read about our achievements at: cnps.org/annual-report

AB 1573, sponsored by CNPS, was derailed by last-minute amendments on September 1 and has entered the California Legislature's "inactive file," therein ending its run this legislative season. It would have implemented California's first requirement for the inclusion of low-water native plants in public and commercial landscapes. It also offered an exciting new policy imperative that native plant landscaping be used at a large scale to support the web of life amid the global biodiversity crisis. Check www.cnps.org for more information.

Lastly, don't forget to stop by for our Fall Plant Sale coming up on October 14!

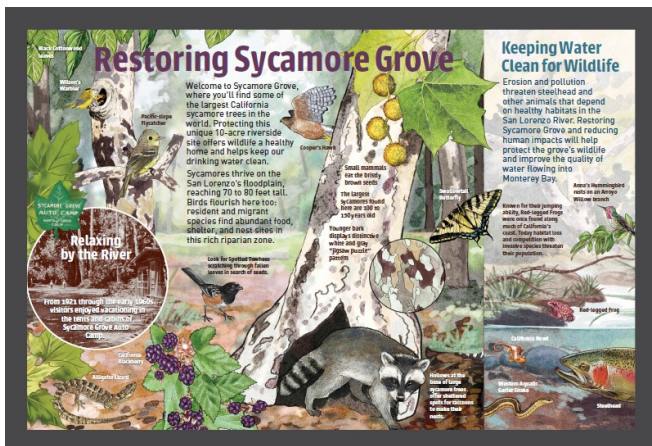
Rediscover Sycamore Grove!

The City of Santa Cruz is inviting the public to rediscover the Sycamore Grove Nature Loop Trail, a newly opened area at Pogonip Open Space. The trail was constructed by Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Stewardship, the City's Summer Youth Trails Program, and Parks & Recreation staff, and funded by a CalRecycle Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant. The path meanders through a riparian forest of sycamores and willows on the banks of the San Lorenzo River.

New interpretive signage introduces visitors to the plants and animals that make Sycamore Grove their home. You will also see evidence of the historic Sycamore Grove Auto Camp that hosted guests in tents and cabins until the early 1960s. The half-mile compacted dirt trail is relatively level and makes for an easy walk.

Sycamore Grove is located half a mile north of the Tannery Arts Center on the east side of Highway 9. Parking is available in a large pullout beside the road.

Keep an ear out for upcoming chapter walks and site volunteer days.



Weed Alert!

Ageratina adenophora (croftonweed, Eupatorium) is a perennial herb or small shrub found along the coast of California and in the South Coast and Transverse Ranges. It prefers disturbed areas, coastal canyons, riparian areas and scrub, and is especially invasive in mild coastal areas. Originally introduced to California as an ornamental plant, croftonweed escaped cultivation by producing abundant seed that is dispersed via wind, water, soil movement, and by clinging to animals and people. This invasive plant is considered noxious in parts of Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Hawaii. From Cal-IPC website: <http://www.cal-ipc.org>.



Ageratina adenophora.
Photo credit © 2019
Neal Kramer

Field Trips

Bonny Doon Preserve

Saturday, November 11, 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Bring lunch/snacks. Field trip is approximately 4-6 miles, depending on interest. We'll do a loop that skirts the Moon Rocks and heads towards Warren Road or mosey about. **Limit 12 people.**

Meet up at Bonny Doon Fire Station on Martin Road. Contact Deanna Giuliano for information and signup, drosegiuliano@yahoo.com (831)278-2699.



2023 Cal-IPC Symposium

October 25-28 in Chico or Online

We're excited to gather in person once again! Join us at CSU Chico to connect with colleagues and share the latest in invasive plant management. Our chapter is a Grassroots Silver Sponsor. Check out the program: www.cal-ipc.org/resources/symposium/program.

Habitat Restoration Projects

Restoring native habitats in the parks and protected lands of Santa Cruz County

Saturday, October 7, 2023 10 am to 1 pm
Location to be determined; call or email for venue.

Saturday November 4, 2023 10 am to 1 pm
Location to be determined; call or email for venue.

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 necessary, just show up at the event.

We welcome individual volunteers from 8 to 80 years. 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. Please contact Restoration Program Leader Linda Brodman for questions. (831)462-4041, or redwdn@pacbell.net.

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday October 14, 10 am to 2 pm

UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Come early for best selection

Our Fall Plant Sale on October 14 will be the largest sale to date, more plants and species, including more plants grown from seed collected within Santa Cruz County.

Local plants are not only beautiful, they support nature. Especially important to the web of life are the insects that they support. Insects are not just great pollinators and food for other animals, but provide high-fat, high-protein food required by baby birds – in the form of caterpillars and other larvae.

This featured plant was chosen for its “habitat hero” value for Santa Cruz gardens. Check out additional habitat heroes on our website, cruzcnp.org.

Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea
(blue elderberry)

This elderberry is fast growing and tolerant of most watering regimes and site conditions. It is a naturally winter deciduous large shrub or small multi-trunked tree. Blue elderberry is found all along the Pacific Coast foothills and is abundant in Santa Cruz County. Blooming in late spring, its beautiful creamy flowers attract a variety of insect pollinators—and the birds who feed on them. Insect larvae are an important high fat, high protein food for nestlings. Large clusters of blue berries that follow are sought after by birds, other wildlife, and humans.

With no supplemental water during low rain years, *Sambucus* can be semi-deciduous in late summer, though even during drought years elderberry can retain its leaves throughout the summer when growing in favorable conditions. Prune to control size and maintain a compact shape; a hard prune promotes fresh new growth in late winter. Easy to grow, butterfly friendly, and deer resistant.



Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea (blue elderberry), available at the fall plant sale, is grown from seeds collected in Santa Cruz County. Photo: Kari Olsen



According to the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, at least twenty-five species of California Central Coast birds relish elderberries, making it an outstanding choice for bird habitat. Photo: Kari Olsen

Propagation Program Changes

Our chapter’s propagation group began in the late 1970s, hosted by founding chapter member Nevin Smith at Wintergreen Nursery. When Nevin moved to Suncrest Nurseries in the early 90s, so did the propagation operation. We have been deeply grateful to Suncrest for hosting us from that time to the present. A group of 8-15 volunteers have met at Suncrest since then once monthly on a Sunday morning, to minimize interruption of the ongoing daily activities of a busy wholesale nursery.

The plants we propagated and maintained allow us to hold our chapter plant sales which serve multiple purposes: they raise significant funds for our educational, conservation, and advocacy activities, and support the use of native plants in home gardens and landscapes.

Suncrest Nurseries has provided our propagation group with resources including bench and greenhouse space, media and containers, irrigation/fertigation by nursery staff between propagation group visits, and twice-yearly transportation of the plants from the nursery to the plant sale site using a company truck and driver. Without their generous support, we wouldn’t have been able to bring thousands of native plants to your gardens at an affordable price.

Shortly after the Spring 2023 Plant Sale, Suncrest Nurseries was on the market to be sold. Through long-held connections between CNPS members and the faculty and staff at Cabrillo College’s Horticulture Department we have temporarily relocated the operation in a scaled down form to Cabrillo’s facilities.

We have received tremendous support from Cabrillo faculty and staff and are indebted to them for their generosity with bench and greenhouse space. Special thanks to Department Chair Sarah Hulick, Horticulture Center Coordinator Heather Blume, and faculty member Nicky Hughes who teaches Cabrillo’s propagation class and California native plants class.

Lastly, I am happy to report that Suncrest Nurseries was purchased, a happy event for Suncrest employees, most still working at the newly named Griggs Wholesale Gardens. Our thanks to all Suncrest employees, past and present, who helped us develop and sustain a propagation program for over thirty years. Special thanks to Victor Quintero, Miguel Quintero, Adrienne Harold, Bill Pollard, Esquivel Figueroa, Araceli Gonzales, Roberto, and Amy Burkett, and former Suncrest employees Leonel Morales and Nevin Smith.

—Kari Olsen, Propagation Lead

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
P.O. Box 1622
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Address Service Requested

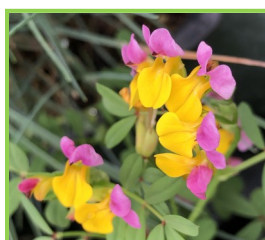


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Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

Welcome New Members!

We hope to meet you at our next General Meeting on Monday, October 9. 6:00 pm keying session, 7:00 pm meeting. Location: UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden.



Hosackia gracilis
(Seaside Bird's-foot
trefoil, witch's-teeth)

Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, October 14, 2023

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

UCSC Arboretum and
Botanic Garden

Come early for best selection!

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 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