



THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



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Fall 2024

A Sense of Place: Ecologically-minded Management Practices from Seed to Garden

Chapter General Meeting

Monday, October 7, 2024

Speaker: Alicia Magliato

Plant ID Session: 6:00 to 6:45 pm

General Meeting: 7:00 pm

Location: UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden



Sunol Water Temple behind late spring blooms of the Discovery Garden.

Photo: Robin Scheswohl

Come to our October 7 Chapter General Meeting, and from 6:00 to 6:45 identify members of the willow family with Lucy Ferneyhough and Grace Brieger. Plants are collected from Santa Cruz County. Their range distribution, terminology, and identification characteristics will be discussed.

The General Meeting begins at 7:00, where you learn practical insights on native plant landscaping and thoughtful ecological management practices with ecology intern Alicia Magliato from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

Alicia received her bachelor of science in Zoology and Spatial Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), but her passion for plants was ignited during a high school job at the San Lorenzo Garden Center. At UCSB, her reverence for the natural world and fascination with ecological restoration was further cultivated through work on plant community structure in wildfire-prone chaparral habitats. Her journey continues with hands-on experience in the SFPUC's Natural Resources Department in Sunol, on Muwekma Ohlone Land.

The presentation highlights the new Alameda Creek Watershed Discovery Garden and Sunol Native Plant Nursery as models for effective native plant landscaping and propagation.

This talk will give you insights into land stewardship, holistic landscape management, and nursery techniques such as phytosanitary nursery propagation and seed collection. Understanding the importance of keystone native species and sustainable practices

Fall Native Plant Sale
OCT. 12, 9AM-1PM





New Location!
Cabrillo College
Horticulture Center

CNPS Fall Plant Sale
Saturday October 12
NEW TIME!
9:00 am to 1:00 pm
Cabrillo College
Horticulture Center
Cabrillo Horticulture Plant Sale and Activities Too

helps you understand how to cultivate a meaningful connection to our native flora and manage your garden with ecological sensitivity.



Aerial view of Alameda Creek Watershed Center, Discovery Garden, and Sunol Native Plant Nursery. Photo: Robin Scheswohl

Prez Sez

Linda Brodman

The latest magazine issue of *Flora* from the State CNPS has arrived and is full of recent news, articles, and highlights from the 2023-24 CNPS Annual Report. Here are a few noteworthy ones.

The pictorial essay, *Foggy Forest to Sandhills* in the Santa Cruz Mountains has a six-page spread showing its recovery after the 2020 CZU Complex Fire. Multiple conservation-minded agencies along with CNPS have been involved with monitoring and documenting its unique plants and habitats.

CNPS launched the new upgraded Calscape on Earth Day, with a user-friendly design and new features/resources for garden enthusiasts just starting or seasoned veterans. You can check it out at www.calscape.org.

CNPS's first Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) vision statement, created by a committee that included Lucy Ferneyhough, our Chapter Vice-President, was presented to CNPS leadership Board and Chapter Council. It was overwhelmingly embraced. As Lucy says, "That is what we're doing here at CNPS, and the DEIJ Vision Statement is a commitment to sharing that experience with as many people as possible." The full statement is at www.cnps.org/deij.

The Annual Report highlights CNPS goals (Know, Save, Enhance and Restore, Connect and Collaborate) and strategies and actions we have taken to meet those goals. Our Chapter is part of this big picture as we contributed our annual report to the state including thousands of volunteer hours. We were also featured on the CA map highlights page, pointing out our successful collaboration with the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department to permanently relocate our propagation program. The full report is at www.cnps.org.

As you read this newsletter, I invite you to take time to reflect upon the tremendous work and accomplishments achieved by our Chapter and the State CNPS. Show "hope in action" by attending our fall plant sale and support our efforts to make a better future for all life. See you there!

Fall Plant Sale at Cabrillo College

Saturday October 12, 9 am to 1 pm

NOTE NEW TIME!

Cabrillo College Horticulture Center

It's no secret, our chapter's plant sales are known to attract native plant lovers from all over. The quality and variety of the plants, all grown by the expert propagation team led by Kari Olsen, are excellent.

Live in Santa Cruz County and want to buy native plants that grow here? We even have plants grown from locally collected seeds that you won't find anywhere else. These plants support our local web of life and add a unique sense of place to your garden. Look for the "We're local" signs on plants or ask a volunteer.

Volunteers have fun helping people choose plants—and learn a lot in the process. You too can volunteer! Contact Kari Olsen (keo466@hotmail.com) for details.

Our plant sales are now held at the Cabrillo College Horticulture Center, which has many advantages for CNPS, and for you, the customer! You can park once and go not only to the CNPS sale and the Cabrillo plant sale – but also to the Cabrillo Farmer's Market too. The Cabrillo Horticulture Department even has a pumpkin patch, and, as a bonus, is offering tours of their amazing greenhouses.

Our chapter is grateful to the Cabrillo College Horticulture Department for providing the space and support for our sale, and for hosting our propagation group year-round.

Check out the list of plants available for sale online at cruzcnps.org **one week before the sale**. Bring your list and be sure to come early for best selection, as the more popular plants do sell out early!

Field Trips

Hike to Maple Falls in Nisene Marks with field botanists Grace Brieger and Lucy Ferneyhough

Saturday, October 26, 9:30 am to 2:30 pm

Enjoy fall colors and creekside flora on this eight-mile round trip hike, with about 700 feet elevation gain. Some agility required. Bring water, layers, sunscreen, and lunch. Meet at George's picnic area. Limited parking inside the park (there is a fee for the park).

Contact Grace Brieger for any questions about the field trip at gbrieger@ucsc.edu or call/text (650)704-4346. Carpooling is encouraged but not sponsored by CNPS.



Linda Brodman inspecting young growth of endangered Santa Cruz Cypress post-French broom removal.

Photo: Jodi McGraw

Divine Diplacus, Marvelous Mimulus: Fall Plant Sale Sticky Monkeyflower Extravaganza!

Photos and text by Kari Olsen

Whether you still call them *Mimulus* or if you favor the now accepted *Diplacus*, either way, we have an excellent line up of sticky monkeyflowers for the Fall 2024 Plant Sale. Because we have shifted our monkeyflowers to quart-sized containers, we are able to offer more of them for sale and at a lower price. Here is a preview of what is in store for you at the October 12 plant sale.

Diplacus 'Fiesta Marigold' is one of the late, great plant breeder Rick Pershoff's most popular and most beautiful cultivars. Compact in habit with brick red-orange blooms edged in yellow gold. When this plant is in full bloom, it IS a fiesta!



Thanks to some mother stock donated by longtime chapter member Natalie McNear, we now have *Diplacus aurantiacus* 'Cherry' on the plant sale menu! The brightness of 'Cherry's' flower really stands out against the plant's green foliage. Thanks Nat!



Diplacus 'UC Davis Hybrid.' I've encountered jumbled information about the officially correct name for this one, but who cares? Just look at the size of those blooms! They are amazing in both size and number!



Long time propagators favorite: *Diplacus aurantiacus* 'Creamy Yellow.' I've never confirmed if 'Creamy Yellow' is an "official" cultivar name or merely a descriptor; it was handed down over the years via previous chapter propagators; either way, it describes this bloom perfectly, so we are sticking with it. Buttery in its beauty, year after year this one continues to be the frontrunner for the "Propagator's Choice" award.



Diplacus puniceus. The native range for red bush monkeyflower is coastal Southern CA, but it thrives well here on the Central Coast. The dark brick red blooms with yellow centers provide a strong contrast to surrounding foliage colors. Paired with the silvery foliage of *Artemisia*, it pops!



Diplacus 'Eleanor.' I wish I knew the history of this cultivar (if you have information, please share!) Mother stock for our plants came from Nicky Hughes' Gold Rush Nursery in 2017.

My early childhood mentor was named Eleanor; I began propagating this monkeyflower in her memory after she died in 2017. The original cuttings I took are still growing strong in my backyard in 2024. I love this cultivar – a variation on the Creamy Yellow color, but with a delicate white outline.



First Friday at the Museum of Natural History

Chapter members Ann Garside, Kari Olsen, Jackie Pascoe, Melissa Cara Rigoli, and Suzanne Schettler enjoyed exploring the theme of Fire in Santa Cruz County at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's First Friday event in August.

It has been four years since the CZU Lightning Complex Fires significantly altered the landscapes of our community. Since that time, conversations concerning "living with fire" have expanded as we learn more about the role fire plays in healthy ecosystems as well as the problems its absence can cause. We've witnessed how plant communities that burn change and recover, telling us a story of resilience and regrowth.



Chapter members Kari Olsen, Ann Garside, and Jackie Pascoe at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History First Friday event. Photo: Melissa Cara Rigoli



Coast redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*) epicormic sprouting post-fire, Big Basin. Photo: Kari Olsen

The recovery for the local human community has been challenging in different aspects. We see places we love such as Big Basin vastly altered or, in the case of many homes and other structures, gone altogether.

Because fire is a natural process that helps maintain the balance of California's ecosystems, our challenge is to figure out how to live safely with the ever-present threat of wildfire. CNPS has a set of resources which provide information and guidance including Best Management Practices for Creating a Fire-Resilient Home, a series of Firewise Garden Designs, and an extensive science-based Fire Recovery Guide designed to help homeowners make their properties more wildfire resilient.

One particularly accessible resource to highlight is the CNPS video "Firescaping 101" featuring San Diego Landscape Designer Greg Rubin. The webinar draws upon a four-year research study examining the fire behavior of planted native landscapes, hydration, and mulches. Rubin has designed many Southern California landscapes, twenty of which have burned in recent wildfires. At all twenty sites, while the wildfire burned the landscape, none of the homes burned. That's a pretty good track record in a developing field!

To access the webinar, go to cnps.org/wildfire and scroll down to "Naturehood: Firescaping 101".

Want to be More Involved with our CNPS Chapter?

Our chapter runs on volunteer energy. Any native plant lover is welcome to take an active role in our chapter. Whether you are just learning about native plants or are a hard-core plant nerd, we encourage your involvement. We welcome anyone with an interest in promoting knowledge of native plants and their uses.

Whether you'd like to help out now and then, join a volunteer group, or take on a board position—you can make a difference. You have the chance to work with members of the public as well as chapter members, the statewide organization, and the thirty-five other chapters throughout California!

Every CNPS chapter is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board includes chapter officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chapter Council Delegate, and Secretary) and other directors, as determined by the chapter's needs. Board members are elected once a year at the February general meeting. During the course of the year, any vacancies that arise in the interim are handled by the board as needed.

If you have specific skills or knowledge relating to nonprofit organization and leadership, our native flora, growing native plants, native plant protection and conservation, marketing, preparing meeting minutes, or newsletter editing, please reach out to us! If you are interested in getting involved at any level, we'd love to hear from you.

Time to get on board! Contact any of the nominating committee members:

Linda Brodman at redwdrn@pacbell.net
Julia Davenport at juliad@cruzio.com
Laurie Kiguchi at lkiguchi@sbcglobal.net

Wildflowers of California

by Suzanne Schettler

I recently received a copy of the new book “Wildflowers of California” produced by California Native Plant Society and Timber Press. It is very well done.

Like some wildflower guides, it is organized by flower color. But that is not all that makes it easy to use. There is a photo index at the front that lets you scan all the flowers in the book in just a few pages so you don't have to flip through a major section of the book such as pink-to-red flowers trying to find the one you have in hand.

There are good photos, succinct text, and a thumbnail distribution map for each flower, all on a half page apiece. The text covers material above the elementary level in a digestible way without talking down to the reader. Examples: staminodia in *Brodiaea*, elaiosomes in *Scoliopterus*, uncommon nuggets of information in *Lithophragma*. It's a model of distilled information.

With conservation in mind, in cases where identification relies on digging the plant to examine its bulb coat (*Alliums*) or pulling it up to determine whether it is annual or perennial (*Delphiniums*), it discourages such destructive practices.

Over time, it might have a flaw in that the cover does not lie flat. And, at 600 pages and about three pounds it might not be a backpacker's choice. So leave the book behind, carry your digital camera, and bring home lots of photos for study.



Wildflowers of California
By the California Native Plant Society
Timber Press
On Sale: May 14, 2024
Price: \$29.99
Pages: 608

Habitat Restoration Project

Saturday, October 19, 2024 10 am to 1 pm
Venue site 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 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. Please contact Restoration Program Leader Linda Brodman for questions and future projects to join at redwdrn@pacbell.net.

Weed Alert!

Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*) is a perennial, hairless vine native to South Africa that can grow up to 30 feet, climbing over everything in its way while forming dense mats and smothering other plants. It is a winter bloomer with yellow compositae flowers, 5-9 lobed ivy-shaped glossy leaves, and light green purplish stems especially toward the root ends.

It prefers coastal scrub and prairie, riparian, and forest canyons. The plant reproduces mainly vegetatively by rhizomes, stems and plant fragments, or occasionally by seed. It easily spreads by wind, water, animals, garden waste, and horticulture.

Though Cape ivy is easy to pull, its fragile stems often break, leaving pieces in the ground which can quickly resprout. Most effective means to removing this plant by hand is through clearing the site of vegetation so you can see the invasive ivy to be cleared and dig it up. Regular and detailed follow-up is essential to the control of Cape ivy. **Reference:** Cal-IPC website (www.cal-ipc.org)

Join the 2024 Cal-IPC Symposium Online October 23-25

Our Chapter is a Grassroots Silver Sponsor! Join Cal-IPC online to connect with colleagues and share the latest in invasive plant management. Themed sessions will explore the ways in which we can “get ahead of the curve” by focusing efforts on the early stages of the “invasion curve.” This means employing strategies of prevention and early detection/rapid response – strategies that are simple conceptually but more complex in practice. Speakers will share their work at the local, regional, and statewide levels.



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Santa Cruz County Chapter
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Mimulus aurantiacus 'Pinnacles'
Photo: Jackie Pascoe.

CNPS Fall Plant Sale

Saturday October 12

9:00 am to 1:00 pm

NEW TIME!

**Cabrillo College
Horticulture Center**

**Cabrillo Plant Sale and
Activities Too!**

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 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

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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