

THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 48, Number 2

cruzcnp.org

Spring 2023

The Life of the San Lorenzo River

Chapter General Meeting

Monday, April 3, 2023

Plant Keying Session with Deanna Giuliano: 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Learn about local *Ceanothus* species popular for landscaping. Flowers important for bees and butterflies, seed pods are a food source for birds and mammals.

General Membership Meeting: 7:00 pm

Location: UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Join us as we enjoy a rare view into urban restoration and the resilience of the Lower San Lorenzo's River flora and fauna.

Jane Mio, Project Director for the San Lorenzo Estuary Revegetation Project, and Kaiya Giuliano-Monroy, River Ecologist for the Coastal Watershed Council, will present on the past, present, and future ecology of the Lower San Lorenzo River.

Jane Mio was born and raised in Germany where she was taught early in life to observe nature's interactive web by her grandfather. These insights led to a passionate voice for the environment. Jane championed the environmental restoration of the lower San Lorenzo River for decades through the San Lorenzo River Urban River Plan Task Force. Along with Donna Meyers, she founded the original San Lorenzo River Natural Resource Stewardship Program. Jane was a City of Santa Cruz Parks Commissioner, the Estuary Project founder, director of the Valley Women's Club Native Habitat Restoration Program, and the lead of the Benchland Environment Stewardship Program, as well as other initiatives.

Kaiya works to revitalize and connect the community to the San Lorenzo River. She leads volunteer events, outreach, and education projects that involve planting native plants, removing invasive species, and increasing biodiversity and habitat complexity along the Santa Cruz Riverwalk.

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Outdoor educators of Exploring New Horizons had a River Health Day with Coastal Watershed Council removing invasive ice plants to make room for *Stipa pulchra*. Photo credit: Kaiya Giuliano-Monroy

Prez Sez

Linda Brodman

What a phenomenal wet winter, historic in many ways. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Spring Equinox will have happened. It doesn't seem so; I'm personally still waiting for those warm sunny days, minus boots and rain jacket. Like the spring idiom, "in like a lion, out like a lamb," **let's hope** the end of March transitions into a more gentle and calm spring.

At our last public meeting in February, Dylan Neubauer announced the finding of a new species for our county, *Astragalus agnicidus* (Fabaceae Family). In March 2022, it was found by a local person out hiking in the central Santa Cruz Mountains (Ben Lomond Mountain) where it had formed a dense monoculture in the understory of burned (2020 CZU Lightning Complex) mixed hardwood/conifer forest. *Astragalus agnicidus* was State-listed as endangered in April 1982 and has a California Rare Plant Rank of 1B.1 (California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program 2022). Dylan is in the process of writing a soon-to-be-published article in "Madroño" about the *Astragalus agnicidus* find.

Dylan also announced that *Aphyllon robbinsii* (Orobanchaceae Family) has just been listed by CNPS. First collected in the county in the 1870s, it is found in sandy loose soils of coastal bluffs, associated with *Eriophyllum staechadifolium*.

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SPECTACULAR SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY APRIL 8

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

See page 3 For details



Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History “Extreme Weather” Event

Thanks to native plant enthusiasts Natalie McNear, Melissa Carr, and Tommy Backer, the chapter participated in the museum’s “Extreme Weather” public event. Alongside other local organizations, the team discussed California’s weather-resilient flora, the possibility of a “Superbloom” year, and distributed free annual wildflower seedlings to anyone who wanted to start their own pocket meadow.

Many thanks to the Museum of Natural History for the invitation and to the knowledgeable team representing our chapter. Photo credit: Kari Olsen.



Xerophyllum tenax
(beargrass)

Photo credit: Andy Werner

Weed Alert!

Euphorbia oblongata (oblong spurge) is a showy Euphorbia species native to Eurasia that is weedy in California. As a perennial weed producing multiple stems on a woody rootstalk, it attains nearly three feet of growth. All plant parts exude a caustic milky sap when cut. Skin contact should be avoided and gloves worn when removing the plant. Volunteers with the Habitat Restoration Team have worked on removing this plant in Quail Hollow County Park.

Photo credit: Joe DiTomaso, Cal-IPC website



Field Trips

Fort Ord with Andy Werner

Tuesday, April 11, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

Enjoy a leisurely hike with leader Andy Werner on April 11. Fort Ord should be terrific at this time of the year! Meet at Jerry Smith entrance on Intergarrison Road at 9:30. Distance will be approximately 5-6 miles at most, with little elevation gain. Back to parking area by 1:30. Bring lunch and/or snacks with water. Limit ten people. To sign up, contact Andy at apwerner44@gmail.com

Bonny Doon Preserve with Andy Werner

Tuesday, May 30, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm

We can talk about whether people would like to take the new loop trail built by Land Trust of Santa Cruz that crosses Laguna Creek and back. It’s about 1 and 1/2 miles with some uphill.

Meet at the Bonny Doon Firehouse on Martin Road at 9:30. We should be back at the Firehouse by 1:30 or so. Bring lunch and/or snacks, with water. Limit ten people. To sign up, contact Andy at apwerner44@gmail.com



Aphyllon fasciculatum
(clustered broomrape)
Photo credit: Andy Werner

Habitat Restoration Projects

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

Saturday, April 1, 2023 10 am to 1 pm
Quail Hollow Ranch County Park

Sunday, May 7, 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 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. (831)462-4041, or redwdrn@pacbell.net.

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday April 8, 10 am to 2 pm

UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden

California native plant gardeners are well acquainted with the “Fall is for planting” mantra, giving new plants two seasons (winter and spring) to put down deep root systems before they need to weather hot summer days making them more resilient. That said, if there was ever a spring where you could get away with planting late and still reap most of the benefits of fall planting, it’s this one!

Take advantage of our heavy rain year by shopping at our chapter’s Spring Plant Sale which will feature well over one hundred species of native plants, many of which are new offerings for our chapter. Of particular interest will be a *significantly* expanded line-up of spring flowering annual wildflowers which provide instant garden color and diversity for pollinators. Many of these annuals are from locally sourced seed which means they were grown from seed collected from local lands around Santa Cruz County (with landowner permission, of course).



Two-year-old *Ribes aureum* var. *gracillimum* in bloom surrounded by nine-month-old plants ready for planting. Photo credit: Kari Olsen

Because of our relatively cool spring, however, the plants are a bit smaller than in past years. Ready to put in the ground and thrive.

The sale will also offer a wider selection of spring flowering bulbs (*Allium*, *Brodiaea*, *Dichelostemma*, and *Triteleia* sp.) and both cool and warm season grasses (*Anthoxanthum*, *Aristida*, *Bouteloua*, *Festuca*, *Koeleria*, *Muhlenbergia* sp. and more) which bring beauty and texture into any garden space.

The chapter received a generous donation of *Dudleya*, including highly sought after hybrids. A selection of these plants will be available at the sale with more to come in fall as the seedlings mature.

Please check the chapter’s website (cruz.cnps) and Facebook group page for additional information including the sale plant list which will be posted one week prior to the sale date.



Limnanthes douglasii (Douglas's meadowfoam) Photo credit: Linda Brodman



Cool season perennial bunchgrass *Koeleria macrantha* (junegrass) loves the recent cool, wet weather. Photo credit: Kari Olsen

April 3 General Meeting

(cont. from page 1)

Kaiya’s connection to nature began in her childhood spent in the San Lorenzo River watershed in the Santa Cruz Mountains and Beach Flats communities. After graduating from Humboldt State with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology, Kaiya’s work has included conducting bird surveys in Nevada’s sagebrush, monitoring avian survival in Humboldt’s redwood forests, managing volunteer habitat restoration activities at The Presidio Native Plant Nursery, and teaching students to identify, love, and appreciate nature through NatureBridge programs near Washington D.C., Yosemite and Marin counties.

ZOOM Talk - Save the Date

A Floristic Study of Swanton Pacific Ranch

A talk by Reed Kenny

Tuesday, June 6

Time TBD - Watch for it on our website, cruzcnps.org

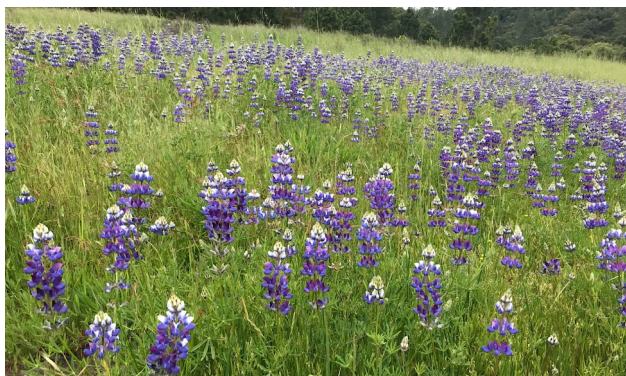


Fantastic wildflower display at Carrizo Plain National Monument, 2019. Photo credit: Kari Olsen

“Superbloom” Spring 2023?

No one is completely sure of the exact recipe for a “Superbloom” but one of the key ingredients is a good rain year spread out over time, and we certainly have had that! Regardless of whether Spring 2023 will be elevated to “Superbloom” status, one thing is for sure: it will be a great season for California’s Spring wildflowers.

As one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots, California has tremendous native plant diversity, which includes a dazzling variety of annual spring wildflower blooms. Sometimes the conditions are just right for an epic abundance of these flowers—a phenomenon popular culture calls a “superbloom”—when the growth is so colorful and vast that it has been seen from space. This is a rare event anywhere in the world, and we are lucky to have it occur in our own backyard.



Lupinus nanus (sky lupine)
Photo credit: Linda Brodman

If you go....

Guide for visiting California’s wildflower areas

- Tread lightly.
- Stay on designated trails! Repeat, stay on trails.
- Do not pick, collect, or trample flowers – they need those seeds for next year’s bloom.
- Pack out all trash.
- Avoid weekends in popular places if possible – your visit will be much more enjoyable.
- Obey all traffic laws, don’t park on the medians.
- Be KIND to the locals.
- Support local businesses when you are out.
- Donate!

Evan Meyer/Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants

For more information on California’s spring wildflowers and where to see them, check the CNPS seasonal wildflower page: cnps.org/conservation/california-wildflowers

For wildflower hotspots in Central and Southern California, the Theodore Payne Foundation Wild Flower Hotline provides weekly recorded wildflower reports at 818 768-1802 ext 7. New reports are released every Friday, March through May. The weekly report is also available to listen to online, theodorepayne.org.



Hiking Quail Hollow Ranch County Park with Calflora

Calflora is bookmarked on my computer, a bookmark I rarely use because I always have a tab open to a Calflora page, if not three or four! Daily, I use Calflora to learn more about what plants grow in our region (both historically and currently) and when they will (likely) bloom. Whether it helps me identify a plant, confirm a suspected ID, gather information about what's growing in a nearby park, or just find out whether a species is native to our county, Calflora is always part of my process. It is a remarkable botanical resource!

On a recent excursion to Quail Hollow Ranch County Park (one of our county's crown jewels), Executive Director of Calflora Cynthia Powell and members of our chapter enjoyed a splendid trek together. Among the interesting (and sometimes endemic) species we observed were:

Arctostaphylos silvicola (Bonny Doon manzanita)
Arctostaphylos crustacea (brittle-leaved manzanita)
Eriogonum nudum var. *decurrens* (Ben Lomond buckwheat)
Stylocline gnaphaloides (everlasting neststraw)
Pellaea mucronata (bird's-foot fern)
Ceanothus papillosus (warty-leaf ceanothus)
Chorizanthe pungens var. *hartwegiana* (Ben Lomond spineflower)

During lunch at the overlook, we learned that Al Keuter's Quail Hollow plant list is on Calflora, and you can also find an illustrated plant list. Keuter's plant survey is represented by a green square on the Calflora map. Observations we made while hiking appear in blue. The map also includes observations from iNat and CCH, which are found on Calflora. Cynthia explained that Calflora aggregates Keuter's plant list plus observations from other sources to compile this Quail Hollow plant list to print and bring in the field.



Stanley Gu studies the underside of a brittle-leaved manzanita leaf to identify the subspecies.
Photo credit: Cynthia Powell

Our chapter looks forward to hosting Cynthia Powell at a future public meeting so we can learn more effectively how to use Calflora. Want to join a Calflora hike? Staff organize plant walks across California. Check one out at their website: calflora.org.

—Kari Olsen

Prez Sez

(continued from page 1)

Check out the statewide CNPS Rare Plant Program online at cnps.org. It is an invaluable resource of information on rare and locally rare plants.

"Since its inception in 1968, the CNPS Rare Plant Program has been a trusted resource for scientific accuracy and integrity. CNPS rare plant data are widely accepted as the standard for information on the rarity and endangerment status of the California flora. Today, we're using these data to fight extinction, engage citizen scientists, and inform land use decisions statewide. Support CNPS plant science today!"

Chapter Leadership for 2023 was elected at our last public meeting as follows:

President: Linda Brodman
 Vice President: Lucy Ferneyhough
 Treasurer: Linda Brodman
 Chapter Council Delegate: Lucy Ferneyhough
 Secretary: Marisa Gomez
 Past President: Deanna Giuliano

Finally, I look forward to our wonderful Spring Plant Sale coming up on April 8. Volunteers have helped along the way to make this a successful sale for the public. However, we are always looking for help. Want to get involved? Please contact me at redwdrn@pacbell.net.

California Native Plant Society
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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, April 3. 6:00 pm keying session, 7:00 pm meeting with speakers Kaiya Giuliano-Monroy and Jane Mio. Location: UCSC Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 8, 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

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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.cruzcnp.org. For inquiries email: santacruzcounty@cnps.org