



# The Cypress Cone

California Native Plant Society  
Santa Cruz County Chapter



## Homeowners Learn about Endangered Spineflower

Debbie Bulger



**Robust spineflower**  
(*Chorizanthe robusta* var.  
*robusta*).

spineflower (*Chorizanthe robusta* var. *robusta*) at a housing development in the City of Santa Cruz before the houses were built.

CNPS has long sought to reach out to community members about the many special native plants in our area in order to promote habitat stewardship. Giving presentations to people who have special status plants on their property helps create the understanding necessary for good conservation practices. Working with attorney Bill Parkin, CNPS was able to get developers to set aside an approximately three-acre preserve for the robust



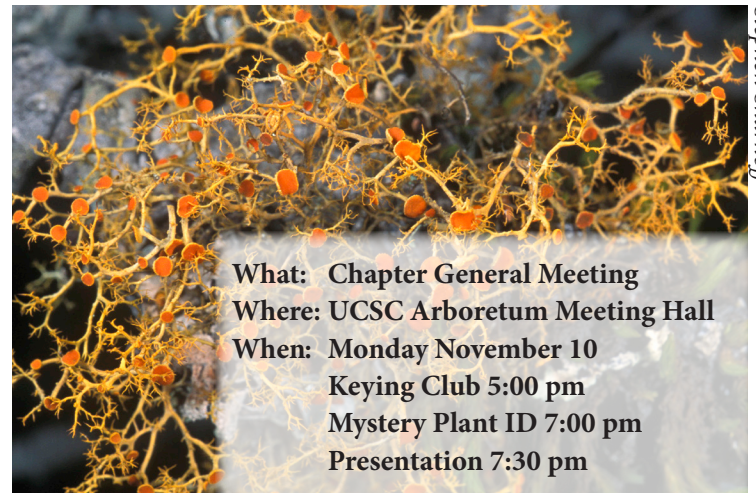
**Grey Hayes answers property owners' questions about the Robust spineflower in September.**

Now that the houses are occupied, CNPS is beginning a relationship with the homeowners. On September 22 Grey Hayes, accompanied by Conservation Committee members Vince Cheap, Suzanne Schettler, and Debbie Bulger, gave a program about the robust spineflower to homeowners

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## California's Wild Lichens — a talk by Stephen Sharnoff

*California has an amazing diversity of lichens, found in every sort of natural habitat.*



**What:** Chapter General Meeting  
**Where:** UCSC Arboretum Meeting Hall  
**When:** Monday November 10  
Keying Club 5:00 pm  
Mystery Plant ID 7:00 pm  
Presentation 7:30 pm

California has an amazing diversity of lichens, found in every sort of natural habitat. Stephen Sharnoff, photographer and author of *A Field Guide to California Lichens* will astonish you with the many forms and colors of our native lichens, as well as details of their biology and natural history.

Stephen Sharnoff is a botanical photographer based in Berkeley. He and his late wife Sylvia Sharnoff did the photographic fieldwork for *Lichens of North America*, published by Yale University Press in 2001. *A Field Guide to California Lichens* (2014) is published by the same press. Nearing completion is a new photographic guide to the wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada, with text by Joanna Clines, Forest Botanist with Sierra National Forest. Stephen's photographs have been used in many exhibitions, magazines and books. View his photographic work at <http://www.sharnoffphotos.com/>. Contact Stephen Sharnoff at [lichen@idiom.com](mailto:lichen@idiom.com).



Stephen Sharnoff

**SPINEFLOWER** *cont. from Page 1* of the Branciforte Creek Housing Development located on Market Street at Isbel.

This federally-endangered, endemic plant appears to be making a recovery under the prescribed management regime which includes removal of invasive Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) among other measures.

Steve Tedesco of the Homeowners Association hosted the event at his home. The talk was preceded by a short field trip on the preserve during which homeowners learned to identify robust spineflower and also learned about the importance of mowing for the health of this endangered plant.

CNPS answered many questions posed by the residents and suggested meeting again after the biologist's report for 2014 has been completed. ☺

## Volunteering Makes You Happy!

Jackie Pascoe

Yes, it's proven by science - getting out and doing worthwhile stuff in congenial company actually makes you happy! So here are some ways we hope you will want to get happy!

- ❑ We really love to find a dynamic person to help on **publicity**, putting listings in the press for our events. We have a list to get you started.
- ❑ **Outreach** is another area where a dynamic person could make a huge difference. Let's encourage young people especially to connect with our flora, and the fauna they support. Could you staff a booth? Talk to groups?
- ❑ **Hospitality** is a lovely happy-making job and we'd like to find some friendly greeter for meetings. Maybe you could bring cookies or other treats even (the chapter would pay).
- ❑ We need a **Secretary** to keep the board organized - take minutes, keep some records. Not much time involved.
- ❑ It would be great to start a **Gardening with Natives type of group**, like they have Over the Hill in Santa Clara - Are you keen to get this started? Gardening is a gateway to appreciation of our flora - and the wildlife it attracts.

Contact **Deanna Giuliano** at [drosegiuliano@yahoo.com](mailto:drosegiuliano@yahoo.com) or 831.278.2699 with your interest in these opportunities.

## Membership

Julia Fields

We are so happy to welcome these new members! **Tai Moses, Diana Hobson, Cheryl Calleri, Marion Blair, Ava Cassidy, Vicki Kuhlmann, Susan Klebl**, and new organizational member: **Central Coast Wilds Nursery!**

## Telling Melic (Good) from Veldt Grass (Bad)

Jackie Pascoe

Melic and Veldt grasses are similar in appearance and habit: cool season, perennial, tussocky grasses that spread by seed and prefer shade. But while melics are lovely natives, veldt grasses are nasty invasives from South Africa! Pull them out!

Here are some key differences to help you ID and yank out the baddy, and nurture the goody. Some are what I've observed and others are from botanist **Deanna Giuliano** and restoration team leader, **Linda Brodman**.

### Ehrharta

Linda Brodman notes "From my observations *E. erecta* is more of a problem [than *E. calycina*] in our county." CAL-IPC web-

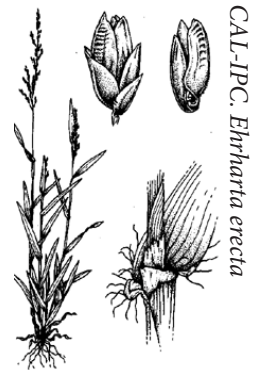


Matt Lavin. *Ehrharta erecta*

site says: "It spreads rapidly and is known to out-compete native grasses and herbs. Erect veldtgrass causes more litter accumulation than native grasses and herbs do, which further inhibits native plant growth."

***Ehrharta erecta***, panic veldt grass, has jointed stems. The flower/seed panicle is loose. *E. erecta* seeds are like rice grains. The leaf is smoother, softer, and wider than Melic.

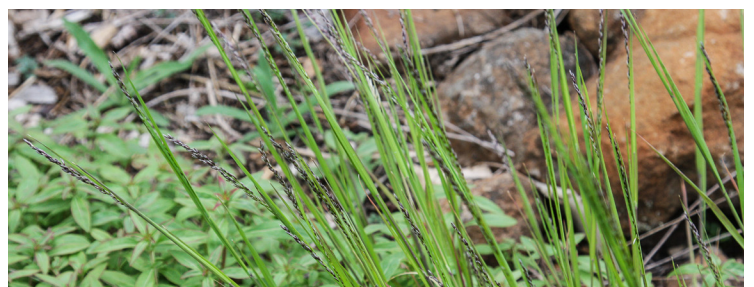
Linda adds, "It has small hairs sticking straight out of the auricles surrounding the ligule of the leaf blade." (See drawing.)



### Melica

Deanna Giuliano says *Melica torreyana* and *E. erecta* are easy to confuse. ***Melica torreyana*** has straight stems, with grey-purplish flowers/seeds on a dense, narrow spikelet. The leaf is rough to touch and pointy, whereas Ehrharta leaves are smooth and softer. ***Melica imperfecta*** is very similar to *M. torreyana* but the leaves may be smoother.

Another common melic, ***Melica subulata***, Alaskan onion grass, has a corm. (You may see many corms.) Ehrharta does not. Tuck onion grass back in, if you accidentally pull it!



Jackie Pascoe. *Melica torreyana*

## Plant Sale Success

Are we all full of pent-up planting energy or what? What a surge of shoppers when the sale opened!

Photos: Jackie Pascoe



Mary-Ellen Irons, Linda Willis, Julia Davenport, Angel Guerzon

And what lovely plants — and volunteers! Thanks to everyone who grew and groomed the plants over the past months, loaded them into the truck, set up for the sale, and helped customers with purchases. Behind it all are key figures like **Karen Hildebrand** and **Mike Luther** and **Linda Willis**. Special thanks to all who purchased plants (like the happy shopper, shown right). Plant sales fund the work we do, for example, in conservation. And we had only seven plants left!



## 16th Annual Central California Invasive Weed Symposium

**November 6 from 9 a.m. to 5 pm** at CSU Monterey Bay, University Center, Seaside. To register: [cciw2014.eventbrite.com](http://cciw2014.eventbrite.com).

*Our chapter is pleased to be a sponsor of this symposium.*



## Santa Cruz County Chapter Events

### Volunteer at the UCSC Herbarium

Thursdays 9:30 am till noon. Carpool from PetSmart parking lot at 9:15 am. Prepare plant collections. Contact **Al Keuter**, [akeuter@gmail.com](mailto:akeuter@gmail.com).

### Keying Club

Keying club is great for people interested in learning how to use the Jepson Manual, plus a bit of plant anatomy and some botanical terms, to ID plants. It's a fun group, lead by Deanna Giuliano. Give it a try - 5 pm on Monday November 10, and on most other general meeting days.

### Habitat Restoration

We work to restore native habitat in the parks and protected lands in Santa Cruz County. Learn about the natural systems that surround us while helping to restore special and wild places. No prior experience necessary. We welcome individual volunteers from 8 to 80 years, as well as special group projects.

- ☐ **Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 am - 1 pm, Baldwin Creek, Wilder Ranch State Park**
- ☐ **Saturday, Nov. 22, 10 am - 1 pm, Sandhill Bluff, Wilder Ranch State Park**
- ☐ **Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 am - 1 pm, Natural Bridges State Park**

Contact program leader Linda Brodman for details: 831.462.4041, [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net)

### Field Trips

**NOTE:** No field trips are planned right now but be sure to see [cruzcnps.org](http://cruzcnps.org) for any late additions. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions: [drosegiuliano@yahoo.com](mailto:drosegiuliano@yahoo.com) or 831.278.2699.

## Monterey Chapter Events

Go to <http://montereybay.cnps.org> for details.

### Habitat Restoration

- ☐ First Saturday in the month, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Broom Bash, East Side of Point Lobos State Reserve.
- ☐ Third Sunday in the month, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Soberanes Creek Cape Ivy Bash.

### Field Trips

- ☐ Sunday, December 14, 9:30 am. Fairytale Fly Agarics of Del Monte Forest.

California Native Plant Society  
Santa Cruz County Chapter  
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**CNPS is a 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. Members have diverse interests including natural history, botany, ecology, conservation, photography, drawing, hiking, and gardening. Your membership includes *Fremontia*, a quarterly journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the *Bulletin*, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and the Cypress Cone.

**Donations.** In addition to membership, donations also enable us to work on behalf of native plants. Please send donations to: CNPS C/O Suzanne Schettler, P.O. Box 1622, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

**Newsletter contributions welcomed!**  
Next deadline: December 15.

**Like us on Facebook**, and contribute to our page!  
<https://www.facebook.com/crucnps>

**Opt for email** - see newsletters in color! Save trees! Contact Julia Fields, [jufields5@gmail.com](mailto:jufields5@gmail.com).

### Join the California Native Plant Society

Mail this form or go to [cnps.org](http://cnps.org) and click JOIN.

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

Your contribution is tax deductible, minus \$12 for the quarterly journal, *Fremontia*. Make your check payable to CNPS and send to:

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



### Thank You Staff of Life

Staff of Life Natural Food Market gathers contributions for us from people who bring their own bags. Thank you, Staff of Life - we do appreciate your support!

**As this year  
draws to a close...**

Please remember our  
CNPS chapter in your end  
of year charitable giving.  
You can (optionally) assign  
your donation to specific  
conservation purposes.



**See you all next year** for more — Keying Club, Mystery Plant ID, Plant Propagation, Habitat Restoration, Field Trips, Herbarium Work, Amazing Programs and Talks, Newsletters, Plant Sales, Conservation Action—and who knows what more?

**Renew Membership Online** You can renew your CNPS membership online—and why not opt to renew automatically? It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs. Go to [www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org) and click the JOIN button.