



The Cypress Cone

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter



City will Mow Arana Gulch This Spring

Debbie Bulger

Members of the Arana Gulch Adaptive Management Working Group (AMWG), which includes CNPS, recommended spring mowing for the Arana Gulch Greenbelt at the body's third meeting on March 26, 2014. The AMWG was established as a Condition of Approval for the Broadway-Brommer Bikeway and Arana Gulch Master Plan approved by the California Coastal Commission in December 2011. Construction of the bikeway is currently underway (see photo below).



Arana Gulch is home to the Federally listed threatened and State listed endangered Santa Cruz Tarplant, *Holocarpha macradenia* (see left).

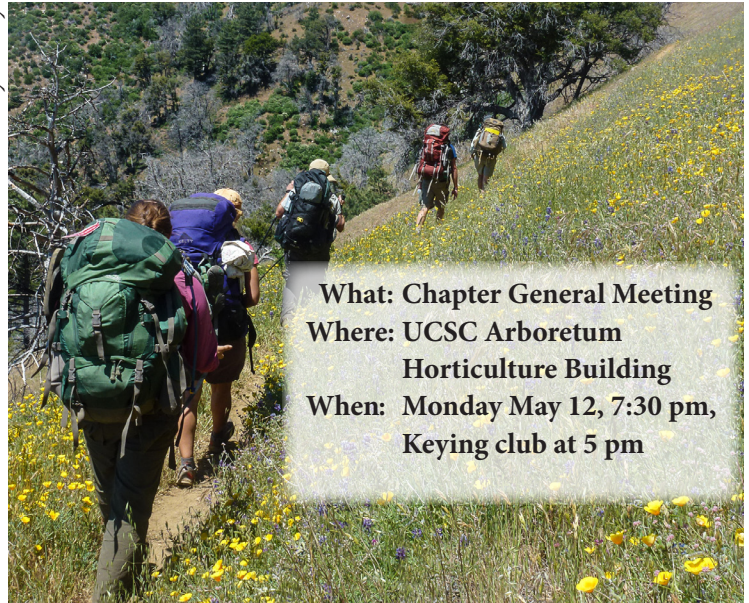
After paved bikeway construction is completed in the fall of 2014, fencing will be erected

for cattle grazing to be used to manage the coastal prairie habitat. Since grazing will not occur before next winter, the AMWG members recommended repeated and carefully-timed flail mowing this spring to reduce thatch as well as the height and density of the invasive species. The City

Cont. Page 2



Danny Slakey



What: Chapter General Meeting
Where: UCSC Arboretum
Horticulture Building
When: Monday May 12, 7:30 pm,
Keying club at 5 pm

Rare Plant Hunting on California's Central Coast

Danny Slakey and Deanna Giuliano

Over the past spring and summer, CNPS staff and chapter members hiked, botanized, and documented rare plants on the central coast, with particular attention to the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness Areas of the Los Padres National Forest. This effort was part of a statewide volunteer project called the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt. The wilderness areas often challenged volunteers with long hikes, overgrown trails, and hot weather, but rewarded them with incredible rare plant finds and access to some of the area's best swimming holes!

Danny and Deanna will share the results of the Central Coast projects, with stunning photographs of landscapes, and rare plants found on the trips. See back cover for Central Coast treasure hunt trips in 2014 you can join.

Danny Slakey works for CNPS as a coordinator for the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt project and also as assistant botanist for the CNPS Rare Plant Program. Deanna Giuliano is the Santa Cruz County Chapter president, and seasonally helps run the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt project. ∞

Dylan Neubauer

Jackie Pascoe

Arana Gulch cont. from Page 1 agreed to mow twice with two approximately 100' x 100' sections that would be mowed only once, one with the first mowing and the other with the second mowing several weeks later. Observation of the resultant three mowing regimes would provide data to improve subsequent management.

In January the City of Santa Cruz was issued a permit by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct adaptive management activities such as mowing, raking, and other measures consistent with the Coastal Commission approved Habitat Management Plan.

A Baseline Assessment Study of grassland vegetation conditions at Arana Gulch was conducted by Alison E. Stanton in the summer of 2013. Of the 35 species observed in the study, only 6 native species were recorded across all transects. Additionally, the vegetation canopy was more than one meter high—too high for most native species. This data will help determine the success of the future grazing program. The study report is posted on the CNPS website.

The AMWG also recommended that the planned scarifying and hydroseeding after completion of the construction be omitted to allow for passive restoration which would be more beneficial for expression of the native seedbank. The City accepted this recommendation.

The City has also funded a tarplant seed bank density assessment to be conducted by Sue Bainbridge of the Jepson Herbarium.

Volunteers Needed for Grassland Restoration Activities Additional grassland habitat restoration activities such as manual raking of thatch and removal of invasive weeds will occur during the spring and summer. If you want to be notified of the dates when volunteers will be needed, please send your email address or phone number to Debbie Bulger, Chapter Conservation Chair (dfbulger@cruzio.com).

Present at the meeting were Susan Bainbridge, Researcher, UC Jepson Herbarium; Mike Ferry, Planner, City of Santa Cruz; Mauro Garcia, Parks Superintendent, City of Santa Cruz; Kate Huckelbridge, Ecologist, California Coastal Commission; Tim Hyland, Ecologist, CA State Parks; Grey Hayes, Ecologist, Elkhorn Slough, CNPS representative; Suzanne Schettler, Botanist, alternate for CNPS; Alison Stanton, Research Botanist, Facilitator; Noah Downing, Park Planner for the City of Santa Cruz. Lena Chang, Biologist, USFWS participated on the phone.

Observing at the meeting were Debbie Bulger and Richard Stover for CNPS and Michael Lewis and Jean Brocklebank for Friends of Arana Gulch. ☺

Wonderful Spring Sale!

Such a great sale—practically a sell-out this spring—one of our best fundraisers! Thanks to all the propagation and sale day volunteers who helped make it such a hit!



Jill Beckett and Ken "Weed Warrior" Moore, with their purchase of an unusual variegated soap lily

Jackie Pascoe

Vote for CNPS in New Leaf Market Program

Peggy Waters

New Leaf Community Markets give envirotokens for re-using bags at their stores. Customers put the tokens into one of 10 slots for the non-profit they prefer, which translates to a monthly donation to the organization. New Leaf decides which non-profits to include based on an election every May.

Please consider voting for CNPS. You can vote throughout the month. To vote, go to newleaf.com, look for the Vote Now box, and follow directions.

The voting is counted per computer IP address – so if more than one person in a household wants to vote, they must use a different computer (or rather, IP address).

When we have been chosen in the past, we received about \$1500 in funds for the year, which is a huge bump in our chapter's funds — and therefore in the activities we can take on in support of native plants.

Please do vote! Also, please pass this request on to as many people as you can. Your chapter appreciates your support. If you have any questions please call Peggy at 336-9283. ☺

Membership News

Julia Fields



Linda Brodman

Please welcome our new members! —Gwendolyn Gin, Erin Avery, Douglas Plante, Kelsey Killoran. We are so glad you joined! ☺

Bud of *Petasites frigidus* (coltsfoot) flower

Kitting out a CNPS Publicity Booth

Jackie Pascoe

This year, I wish I had planned ahead and set up a booth at the Santa Cruz Earth Day in San Lorenzo Park. This event is such a wonderful opportunity to share with so many people about our county's amazing native flora, special habitats, the value of gardening with native plants, the work our chapter does — and the fun we have too.

So, now I'm all about forward planning so we can be there next year! And maybe at some other events too.

I'd so appreciate the help of a volunteer willing to take on a single, finite task: to put together a **basic booth kit**, with the items that we need to set up a CNPS booth.

I have some materials, kindly passed along to me by Denise Polk. We need to refresh our stock of CNPS brochures, and Cal-IPC brochures about invasive plants, and perhaps we can come up with other hand-outs. We could use some of those plastic stands to display brochures. I'm pretty sure the chapter would pay for some basics like that. I'll help, and I'll happily take on maintenance of the kit.

If you would like to champion the creation of a basic booth kit, please contact Jackie Pascoe at countrymoosie@gmail.com. ☺

Santa Cruz County Chapter Events

Habitat Restoration

We are restoring native habitat in the parks and protected lands in Santa Cruz County, one (pulled) weed at a time! No prior work experience is necessary, just show up at the park. Wear comfortable layered clothing, bring something to drink, and lots of enthusiasm! Tools provided. Bring gloves. Contact Linda Brodman for details: 831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

- ☐ **Saturday, May 10, 9 am - 12 pm, Quail Hollow Ranch**
- ☐ **Saturday, June 14, 10 am - 1 pm, TBD - see web site**

Field Trips

See cruzcnp.org for late additions. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions: drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or 831.278.2699.

Saturday May 3 and May 17 Bonny Doon Sandhills

Val Haley, Botanist and Revegetation Specialist, will lead two walks that focus on the rare plants, ecology, and geology of **Bonny Doon Ecological Reserve**. A portion of the walks will also include plant uses and edible plants that we encounter along the trail.

Sign up early, as there is a maximum 15 people per walk. To reserve your spot, call **Val Haley at 425-1587** or e-mail her vegnet@cruzio.com.

We will meet at 11:00 am at the parking lot next to the fire-house on Martin Rd. Bring hiking shoes, water, sun protection and a snack. The walks usually last about 2.5 hours. The trail will be loose and sandy with some moderate slopes. The closest major intersections are Martin Rd. and Pine Flat, or Martin Rd. and Ice Cream Grade.



Dylan Neubauer

Ben Lomond spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*) is a special status plant that is endemic to the Sandhills of Santa Cruz County. It is Federally listed as endangered. We are lucky to have many plants at the

Reserve, growing along the trails. It is usually a low grower, and can make carpets of pink flowers, typically blooming in May.

Monterey Chapter Events

For reservations and details on events in our next-door county, go to <http://montereybay.cnps.org>.

Habitat Restoration

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

Field Trips

- ☐ Thursday May 1, 9:30 am. Mount Madonna, Jewel flower, hike into serpentine area.
- ☐ Saturday May 17, 9:45 am. Santa Lucia Preserve.
- ☐ Saturday May 31 10 am. Garzas Creek Wildflower Walk.
- ☐ Sunday June 22, 9 am to 5 pm. Chews Ridge Wildflowers, Butterflies & Birds.

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**We thank Staff of Life for their support! Please consider donating their check-out tokens to CNPS.**

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California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
P.O. Box 1622
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
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First Class

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!

Deadlines are: June 16, Aug 18, Oct 18, Dec 15.

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

Opt for email - see newsletters in color! Contact Julia Fields, jufields5@gmail.com.

Join the California Native Plant Society

Mail this form or go to 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

Deanna Giuliano



Sidalcea hickmanii
ssp. *hickmanii*

**Central Coast Rare Plant
Treasure Hunts**

Join CNPS for some rare plant hunting in the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness of Monterey County!

May 23 – 25: Tassajara Hot Springs Backpack

June 21 – 22: South Coast Ridge Botanical Mountain Biking and Day Hikes

July / August (Dates TBD):
Ventana Double Cone Backpack

See: <http://www.cnps.org/cnps/rareplants/treasurehunt/calendar.php>
or email Danny Slakey at dslakey@cnps.org for more details.

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