



The Cypress Cone

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter



Only Four Santa Cruz Tarplants Found at Arana Gulch

Debbie Bulger



Holocarpha macradenia

Years of mismanagement have not been good for the Santa Cruz tarplant (*Holocarpha macradenia*) at Arana Gulch. Only four plants were found this year. Sue Bainbridge, researcher, UC Jepson Herbarium, a member of the Adaptive Management Working Group, has conducted a seedbank assessment and is currently propagating 14 seedlings. Her analysis, while indicating a precipitous drop

in soil seedbank, confirmed CNPS's earlier assessment that there remains a healthy seedbank awaiting improved management. The Group recommended that the City biological consultant collect seed from this year's plants for propagation.

Arana Gulch riparian area

"Local willow cuttings and other local plants [can] be used in revegetation."

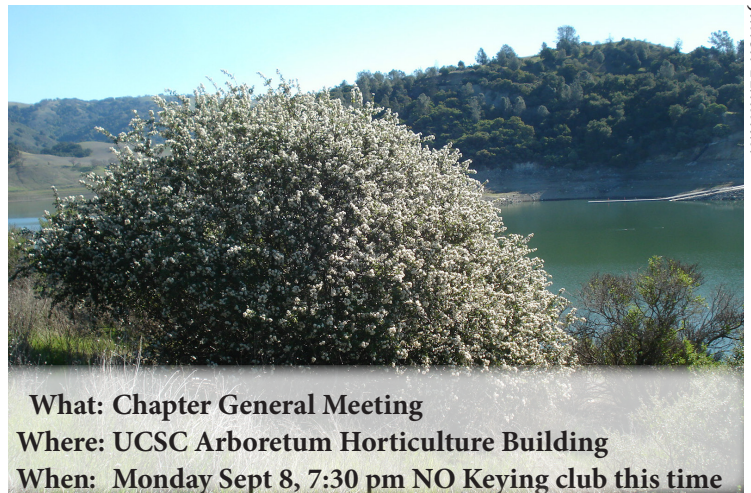


"Dense litter and the resulting tall grasses are the primary threats to the Santa Cruz tarplant."

Weed management, woody plant removal, and soil salvage/re-spreading were among topics discussed by members of the Arana Gulch Adaptive Management Working Group at their July 16 meeting. The first hour and a half of the meeting took place at Arana Gulch where Working Group *Continued page 2*

"Dam the Luck!" - Janell Hillman Talk

*How the Anderson Dam seismic retrofit has led to new insights into the ecology, evolution and conservation of the coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisiae*)*



What: Chapter General Meeting

Where: UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

When: Monday Sept 8, 7:30 pm NO Keying club this time

Anderson Dam is located in Morgan Hill, in the Hamilton Range foothills. Anderson Reservoir, the largest reservoir in Santa Clara County, lies within two kilometers of the Calaveras Fault. Recent seismic stability studies determined that the dam is seismically unstable and a project to retrofit the dam is currently underway by the Santa Clara Valley Water District. Just north of Anderson Dam lies the well-known Coyote Ridge, a ridgeline of serpentine soils and associated rare and endangered plants.

Anderson Dam bisects the largest population of the federally endangered Coyote ceanothus (*Ceanothus ferrisiae*), a serpentine endemic chaparral shrub known from only three populations. In order to mitigate for impacts to coyote ceanothus from the dam retrofit, a new population must be created. A potential mitigation site has been selected, and a series of collaborative research studies on the genetics, soil relationships, and water availability needs of known populations of Coyote ceanothus are currently underway to determine methods to create a successful, functioning population. *Continued page 2*

Janell Hillman

Dylan Neubauer

Jackie Pascoe

ARANA cont. from Page 1 members examined some of the areas raked by volunteers in June in lieu of cattle grazing. Dense litter and the resulting tall grasses are the primary threats to the Santa Cruz tarplant.

Working Group members also looked at the hillside above Arana Creek where the City is constructing the causeway for the bike path. The Group discussed modifications to the City's revegetation plan that would improve success criteria including recommending that local willow cuttings and other local plants be used in revegetation.

The north-south multi-purpose paved trail is scheduled to be constructed this fall. The Working Group recommended that topsoil removed during construction be respread as thinly as possible in the adjoining grassland to conserve the native seedbank from the soil.

After grazing stopped at Arana Gulch in the 1980s, thatch buildup became an increasing problem for the Santa Cruz tarplant. Grazing to remedy this problem is expected to begin again this winter. Fencing for the grazing areas will be erected after the construction of the paved trails is completed by fall. The Working Group recommended that mowing continue in areas outside the grazing plots.

The Working Group additionally recommended that the City map priority invasive weeds for later removal as well as map areas for management in perpetuity as grassland rather than shrub or oak habitat.

Additional members of the Adaptive Management Working Group will be added in the future perhaps including an academic and a certified range manager.

The Working Group will meet again in November. These meetings are open to the public. ☺

DAM cont. from Page 1 Janell Hillman will talk about her work with this project. Janell is a botanist at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, where she has worked for fifteen years. She graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Environmental Studies and pursued a master's degree in Biology at San Francisco State University. She is a past co-president of the Santa Cruz County Chapter of California Native Plant Society (CNPS), and was on the state CNPS Executive Board for several years. ☺



Janell Hillman

Fall Plant Sale is Saturday October 11

Yay! Save the Date! We all know fall is the best time to plant, after it (hopefully) rains. Propagation group volunteers under the able leadership of Mike Luther (and a small dedicated committee) have been working hard all year to grow and groom lovely native plants for Santa Cruz gardens.

Want to volunteer? Karen would be delighted! You can help with setup, teardown, cashier, or customer helper. Contact **Karen Hildebrand** at karenhildebrand@cruzio.com.

After the Bloom is Over

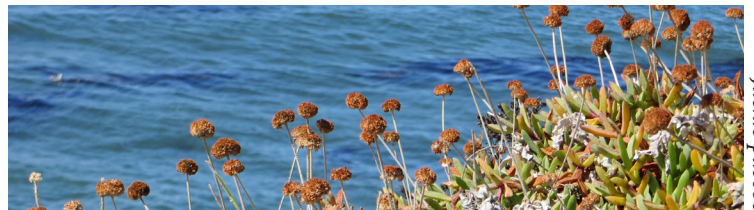
Beginning native plant gardeners might find these tips useful. You don't have to prune as soon as blooms are over. You can wait till seed-heads are empty—and birds are full!

These later-blooming, drought-tolerant plants (and more) are very likely to be available in our fall sale!

Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, so tough you can walk on it. Summertime flowers, white to pink. Cut back to the ground.

California fuchsia, *Epilobium canum*, is the go-to hummingbird plant for late summer into fall, with red tubular blooms. Cut back to 1 inch.

Buckwheat, *Eriogonum*, is a genus with many lovely species that are all great for bees and butterflies. Spring into late summer flowers, from white to red. Brown seed-heads are attractive. You can cut back blooms and leggy or withered growth.



Jackie Pascoe

Heartleaf penstemon, *Keckiella cordifolia*, a shrub with arching stems ending in clusters of red tubular flowers that bloom through summer's end. Cut back to six inches, or leave longer stems if you are growing it up a fence or through shrubs.

Two-lobed monkeyflower, *Mimulus bifidus* - Pinnacles, is shorter than the more common sticky monkeyflower, *M. aurantiacus*, and with a more apricot flower. Blooms all summer. Prune lightly to shape.

Cleveland sage, *Salvia clevelandii*, including selections (like 'Winnifred Gilman') and hybrids (like 'Allen Chickering' and 'Whirly blue'). Requires excellent drainage. Exceptionally fragrant. Purple-blue blooms early to mid summer. Cut back (shearing is okay) by 1/3 to 1/2 in fall. You can treat other flowering sages similarly. All are stunning and generally fast growing garden shrubs for a drought tolerant garden. ☺

Fred McPherson's Hazelnut Video

Fred says: *Up here in the forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the western grey squirrels and Steller's jays have been after the ripening hazelnuts and acorns. We (Roberta and Fred McPherson) have recently completed a short video about the life cycle of the California Hazel that includes some of this fascinating plant/animal foraging behavior. It can be seen on our YouTube Channel, SLVBackyard: <http://bit.ly/1q8V8q6>*

Fred McPherson



You can see other local nature videos by the McPhersons at the same channel. They are fascinating! 🐿

Area Events

Tour of State-wide Conservation Conference Site

October 2, 5:30 p.m. at the San Jose DoubleTree by Hilton. A one hour tour of the site of the CNPS Conservation Conference and 50th anniversary kick-off, followed by optional social hour. Learn how you could participate in this major CNPS event, which takes place January 13-17, 2015.

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: cciws2014.eventbrite.com.

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



Watsonville Wetlands Watch Festival

September 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center building (top of the Pajaro Valley High School campus) in Watsonville: This is a free, family-friendly event with talks, workshops, and guided nature walks—all related to the wetlands. Also food, music, kids' activities, and more.

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

Habitat Restoration

We work 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. We welcome individual volunteers from 8 to 80 years, as well as special group projects.

NOTE: No events are planned for September-October at this time. See cruzcnps.org for any late additions. Contact program leader Linda Brodman for details: 831.462.4041, redwdrn@pacbell.net

Field Trips

NOTE: No field trips are planned for September-October. See cruzcnps.org for any late additions. Contact Deanna Giuliano for any questions: drosegiuliano@yahoo.com or 831.278.2699.

Monterey Chapter Events

Go to <http://montereybay.cnps.org> for field trip reservations and other 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, September 14, 1:30 p.m. S.F.B. Morse Reserve, Del Monte Forest.
- ☐ Thursday, October 30, 1:30 p.m. Falling Leaves at Maple Falls, Nisene Marks.



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!

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!
Deadlines are: Oct 18 and Dec 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.

Join the California Native Plant Society

Mail this form or go to cnps.org and click JOIN.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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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

CNPS Fall Plant Sale is Saturday October 11

12 p.m. – 4 p.m. All welcome.

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Members (Friends of the Arboretum or CNPS)

The Friends of the Arboretum plant sale is also at the same time and place—the UCSC Arboretum's **Eucalyptus Grove** on High Street.

Come early - you can join either organization when you arrive.

Class: Native Plant Gardening for Beginners

With this intense drought, more and more people are turning to native plants for a pleasing and drought-tolerant garden. This **FREE** class will get you up and running. Learn how to remove a lawn and what California native plants are easy to grow and maintain. It's less work than a lawn! You can also ask questions during a panel session.

Wednesday October 8 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. (tentative) at the UCSC Arboretum Horticulture building. (Off High St. Turn right about 1/2 mile up past UCSC main entrance.) See cruzcnp.org for updates.

Renew Membership Online Renew your CNPS membership online using a credit card. As an option, set it up to renew automatically year after year. It is quick, easy, convenient, and reduces renewal mailing costs. Go to www.cnps.org and click the JOIN button.