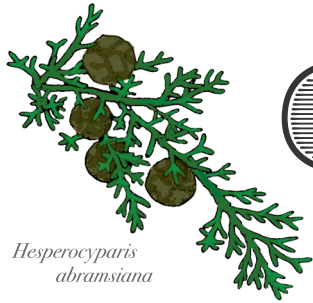




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abramsiana*

THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 41, No 2

cruzcnps.org

March-April 2016

SPRING PLANT SALE!

Saturday, April 9

10 AM – 12 PM: Arboretum and CNPS members only.

12 PM – 4 PM: Open to the public.

Location:

The Arboretum at UCSC, Eucalyptus
Grove on High Street.

This is our biggest plant sale of the year! Held alongside the UCSC Arboretum plant sale, it is a great place to find beautiful plants for that drought tolerant garden you've been wanting to start. Come show your support, and add beauty and color to your garden at the same time. 



Cara Wilcox

Brett Hall Walking the Talk at the CNGA "New Front Yard" Program

Jackie Pascoe

I was delighted when a neighbor told me she's planning to shrink the size of her lawn. I went with her to the California Native Grasslands Association's "New Front Yard" program, hosted up at the Arboretum on February 11.

CNGA (cnga.org) has a mission similar to our own, but focusing on native grasses and grasslands. They've been offering the New Front Yard program in several

locations around the state. An all day event, it promised to explain how to "transform your thirsty lawn into a water-saving landscape featuring drought-tolerant trees, native

grasses, perennials, and shrubs." It delivered on its promise – and it was packed!



In each location where CNGA offers the program they invite local speakers to join in. John Laslett and Dakotah Bertsch of Ecological Concerns focused on the nitty-gritty how-to details of losing your lawn, such as adapting spray irrigation to low-flow drip for drought-tolerant plantings, and the use of sheet mulching to kill the lawn. Martin Quigley, the Arboretum's Director of Gardens and Grounds, gave a lively and entertaining talk about garden design, advising homeowners to first work out a garden design before getting to a plant list. Martin said we should not think of native plants as any more special than other plants in the garden. Being a native plant aficionado, of course, I was at first taken aback. But then I realized that his advice applies to me too, because my garden design is all about supporting wildlife and the surrounding wild lands in which I live. So naturally it follows my plant list consists mainly of local native plants.

The main pleasure of the day for me, however, was when our own past president and chapter council

Photos by Jackie Pascoe



delegate Brett Hall took the podium. Brett is the California Native Plant Program Director at the Arboretum and he focused on our local plant communities and native plants appropriate for use in the garden. Ah! What a great slide show and talk! Brett invited us to eat our bag lunch on the move and led a tour of the 40 plus acres of the Arboretum's new California garden, currently in development. This area will showcase various plant communities within the California Floristic Province. It's really starting to take shape, and the manzanitas in particular are mature and stunning. The addition of this section to the arboretum means that there are now more acres devoted to California's native flora than to any other region's flora. Now – that's certainly special! 

GENERAL MEETING

March 14, 2016

7:30 PM

UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Building

Alrie Middlebrook

With Leigh Klein and Linda Roy



Photos by Jackie Pascoe

A TEAM EFFORT: LIVE OAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GARDEN PROJECT

Since taking over as Live Oak Elementary School's garden teacher four years ago, Leigh Klein has worked tirelessly to bring community supporters together and restore one of the original Life Lab gardens in Santa Cruz. To further her goals, Leigh partnered with Alrie Middlebrook's California Native Garden Foundation (CNGF) in 2013.

CNGF contributed a comprehensive native garden design, by garden designer Linda Roy, as well as plants and labor. Our own CNPS propagation group gave volunteer time, and over fifty iris plant starts. Many others such as Tim Hyland, State Parks ecologist and parent of a student at the school, have contributed expertise and time. A related CNGF activity at the school is a water conservation project, funded by Lowes. Leigh has also partnered with local Mo L'Esperance of Suda restaurant (and others) to make it possible for students to not only grow vegetables, but also bring them to the table.

These projects are all pulled together in Alrie's master plan for the entire campus at Live Oak. CNGF has implemented several such plans in schools across the Bay Area. Staffed by volunteer interns, CNGF has a



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 appreciate your support!

mission to reduce CO₂, increase biodiversity, and reconnect children with the natural world. Alrie said, "When we master plan a schoolyard, we include native gardens of the region, keep all rainfall on site, provide raised beds for veggies, as well as berry vines and fruit trees that are available to the community. We also have food preparation and gathering areas, a propagation and greenhouse facility, an art and performance area, a project based learning center, and a soil building and waste management center, including composting and vermicomposting. We believe the entire school yard can be an outdoor teaching laboratory. It will be possible for all classes to be taught outdoors using project based learning models."



Alrie Middlebrook is co-author (with Glenn Keator) of the book, *Designing California Native Gardens*. Her native plant nursery at the Middlebrook Center in San Jose has been operated by CNGF since Alrie established the foundation in 2004. Middlebrook Center also includes the ELSEE (Environmental Laboratory for Sustainability and Ecological Education) garden, which demonstrates the CNGF sustainability themes. For more information, see middlebrookcenter.com. Leigh Klein is the head teacher at the Live Oak Elementary School Life Lab garden, where she opens children's eyes to the life cycles of plants and animals, nutrition, and the wonders of natural resources including air, water, and soil. Her lessons incorporate writing, reading, art, science, math, social studies, and hands on activities. In the garden, Leigh says, "Students are using critical thinking, creativity, problem solving and team work all year long."

There will be a Live Oak Elementary School garden work day on **March 19 from 12 PM – 5 PM**. Volunteers are welcome! Chef Mo L'Esperance of Suda restaurant will be catering the event! The school is located at **1916 Capitola Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95062 (corner of Capitola Road and 17th Avenue)** ☞



MEET OUR NEW SECRETARY



Haley Golz

I'm originally from Montana. Growing up I spent a lot of time in the outdoors and I developed a fascination for plants and their mysterious ways. After graduating from Carleton College in Northfield, MN, I spent a few years managing organic farms in the Midwest and in Washington State. Now I work at Soquel Nursery Growers. I'm still an avid hiker, kayaker and climber, and I am happy to be volunteering as the new Secretary for the California Native Plant Society. It's a great way to meet people with similar interests and to start learning a whole new suite of plants! I'm really looking to become more involved in advancing restoration and conservation of native plants in California. 🌿

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER HABITAT RESTORATION TEAM

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 park. 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.

Contact: Program Leader,
Linda Brodman
831.462.4041,
redwdm@pacbell.net

RESTORATION DATES:

Saturday, March 5, 10 AM – 1 PM
Location TBD
Saturday, March 19, 10 AM – 1 PM
Location TBD
April dates and locations TBD

Check website for updates:

cruzcnps.org 🌿



Variegated Yerba Buena,
Quail Hollow Ranch,
January restoration trip,
photo: Pat Kittle

FIELDTRIPS

Carpooling is encouraged, but not CNPS sponsored. Bring water, layers, sunscreen, hat, and a lunch. Heavy rain cancels.

March 18 – 21

SoBeFree Bryophyte Foray

Immerse yourself in the tiny world of mosses, liverworts and hornworts. See the Bryophyte chapter's website at bryophyte.cnps.org for more information and a registration form.

Saturday March 19, 11 AM - 2 PM: Lucille's Court with Randall Morgan. Meet in parking lot in back of Johnnie's Market in Boulder Creek. This is the best annual flower-field left in Santa Cruz County. It has had a rough time in recent years, as the natives were suppressed by drought and grass competition. So with better rain at last (and refreshers to come, let's hope) the display could be closer to the "good old days". Some early highlights are Mouse Ear Chickweed (*Cerastium beeringianum*), Meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), California Fairypoppy (*Meconella cal.*), Annual Sandwort (*Minuartia pusilla* var. *diffusa*), Gray's Clover (*Trifolium grayi*), Toothless Pacific Grove Clover, *Nemophila humifusa*, Coast Range Stonecrop (*Sedum radiatum*) etc. Bring layers, water and lunch. **Rain postpones to Saturday March 26.**

Sunday April 3, 10 am - 3 pm. Calypso Orchids of Butano with Deanna Giuliano. Come see the beautiful purple Calypso orchids (*Calypso bulbosa*), along with Western Wakerobin (*Trillium ovatum*), Yellow Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), and an array of flowering native berry species. Hike is about 6.5 miles with some elevation gain. If you're interested in carpooling, meet at the Westside New Leaf parking lot on Fair Avenue at 9:15 am.

Saturday May 7, 10 AM - 3 PM: Quail Hollow Ranch Wonders with Deanna Giuliano. Have you ever seen the pygmy redwoods that grow at the top of Quail Hollow? We will see a variety of habitats: marshy meadows, woodland, chaparral, and our unique sandhills. Some species we could see include *Lupinus latifolius*, and *Fritillaria affinis*. We will also enjoy spectacular views. About 5-6 miles round trip depending on the trails we take. Meet at Quail Hollow Ranch County Park main parking lot.

Saturday May 21, 11 AM - 2 PM: Bonny Doon Sandhills with Val Haley. Botanist and Revegetation Specialist, will lead one walk that focus on the rare plants, ecology, and geology of the Reserve. A portion of the walk will also include plant uses and edible plants that we encounter along the trail. Likely Sandhills wildflowers in bloom will include: Clustered Broomrape (*Orobanche fasciculata*), Small-flowered Primrose (*Camissoniopsis micrantha*), Sand Gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora*), the rare Ben Lomond Spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *hartwegiana*), and Santa Cruz Wallflower (*Erysimum teretifolium*), which is a special-status plant that is endemic to the Sandhills of Santa Cruz County.

Sign up early, as there is a maximum 15 people per walk. To reserve your spot, call Val at 425-1587 or email her at vegnet@cruzio.com. We will meet at 11 am at the parking lot next to old firehouse on Martin Rd. Bring hiking shoes, water, sun protection, and a snack. The walks usually last about 3 hours. The trail will be loose and sandy with some moderate slopes. The closest major intersections are Martin Rd. and Pine Flat Rd., or at Martin Rd. and Ice Cream Grade. 🌿

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
P.O. Box 1622
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
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Hiking • Propagation • Keying Club • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

MEMBERSHIP

Ann Garside

The Santa Cruz Chapter of CNPS wishes a warm welcome to our new members: Daryl Dichek and Kenneth Smith, Steven Rosich, Chris and Wendy Miller, and Annika Person!

REGULAR CHAPTER EVENTS:

Volunteer at the Herbarium:

Prepare plant collections

Native Plant Propagation:

Every third Sunday of the month

Check our website (cruzcnps.org) for details.

JOIN THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter Affiliation: _____

To join or renew online, go to cnps.org and click JOIN.

- ☐ Student/Limited Income \$25
- ☐ Individual \$45
- ☐ Family or Library \$75
- ☐ Plant Lover \$100
- ☐ Patron \$300
- ☐ Benefactor \$600
- ☐ Mariposa Lily \$1500

Make your check payable to **CNPS** and send to:
**Membership Chair, CNPS, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento, CA 95816**

Your membership includes Fremontia, a journal with articles on all aspects of native plants; the Bulletin, a statewide report of activities and schedules; and the Cypress Cone.

Newsletter contributions welcomed!

Next deadline: April 15, 2016. Contact Cara at carawilcox@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook,

and contribute to our page!

facebook.com/cruzcnps

To have the newsletter emailed to you:

Contact Ann at aegrwdws@calcentral.com.

CNPS IS A 501(c)(3) 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 SUCH AS: NATURAL HISTORY, BOTANY, ECOLOGY, CONSERVATION, PHOTOGRAPHY, DRAWING, HIKING, AND GARDENING. DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AND SUPPORT SPECIAL PROJECTS SUCH AS PUBLICATION OF THE COUNTY CHECKLIST, AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES THAT PRESERVE IMPORTANT HABITATS AND SPECIES IN OUR AREA. YOU MAY EARMARK GIFTS FOR SPECIFIC AREAS. (YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS ALSO TAX DEDUCTIBLE, MINUS \$12 FOR THE JOURNAL FREMONTIA, THREE ISSUES PER YEAR.)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **CNPS** AND SEND TO:
CNPS, P.O. Box 1622, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061.