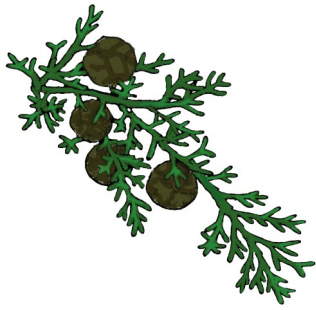




THE CYPRESS CONE

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHAPTER



Volume 50, Number 2

chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/

Spring 2025

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County: Caring for and Connecting People to the Land Since 1978

Speaker Mark Bibbo

Monday April 7 2025

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

1305 East Cliff Dr.

Keying Session 6 p.m.

General Meeting 7 p.m.

Join us at our general meeting on April 7 to learn how the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County has protected such native plant hotspots as the Glenwood Preserve in Scotts Valley, the San Vicente Redwoods, and over 600 acres of sandhills habitat in Santa Cruz County. Our speaker, Mark Bibbo, will talk about the history of Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and its current mission and strategy.

Mark will highlight some of the important plant conservation work carried out by the organization on its properties and talk about exciting upcoming projects. From wildlife crossings to protecting endangered plant habitats, the trust's reach is far and wide.

Conservation land trusts work to conserve habitat for wildlife and plants as well as to address community needs. They can be local, state, or regional in scope. Today, land trusts have conserved 61 million acres of private land across the nation, more than all the national parks combined.

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is organized around four major project areas: protecting wildlands, saving farmland, building trails, and stewarding the land. Since its founding in 1978, over \$120 million has been raised in funding for conservation, protecting more than 14,000 acres directly and via partnerships.

Mark Bibbo is a professional botanist with over 25 years of experience working for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, with CNPS at the state level, and with environmental consulting firms. In his current role as Conservation Project Manager at the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, Mark works with staff, partner organizations, and others to help bring to fruition many conservation projects on land trust properties.

Mark has served CNPS in multiple ways, currently as our chapter's Conservation and Rare Plants chairperson. He is also a member of the Certification Board for the statewide CNPS California Consulting Botanist Certification program.



Poppies in a restored grassland prairie at the Watsonville Slough Farm, a Santa Cruz Land Trust property. Photo: Mark Bibbo.

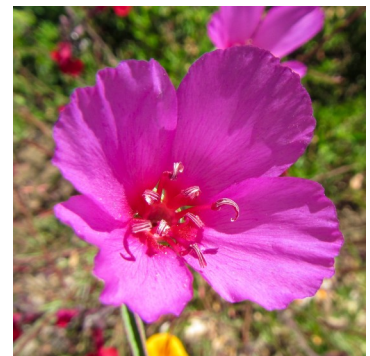
Spring Plant Sale Saturday April 12

**Cabrillo College
Horticulture Buildings**

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Plant list available on NEW website:
chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/

Our biggest sale of the year! Come early for best selection of native spring-blooming annuals, bulbs, grasses, irises, and much more. Your garden will explode with color and entice native pollinators. Native plant experts will be on hand to assist you in choosing the right plants for your location and garden design.



Ruby chalice clarkia (Clarkia rubicunda)
Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Cabrillo College is also holding their sale of perennials, shrubs, native plants, and organic vegetable starts. They are hosting an art show with artist Lili Arnold and selling T-shirts, Cabrillo "Clay Club" ceramics, and empanadas from Fonda Felix.

Shuttle available as there is limited parking. Carpool if possible. See you there!

Chapter Happenings

Our chapter has had a busy couple of months since the last newsletter, with a flurry of meetings, activities, native plant encounters in the field and in the nursery, and plans for more.

After the big turnout (more than 60 attendees braving the dark to find the Arboretum) for Stephen McCabe's December talk about adventures in pursuit of *Dudleya*, we wondered if attendance might have reached its peak.

The February meeting location had been changed to the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History to provide a venue with lighted streets closer to mid-county but we weren't sure how members would respond.

Whether due to the new location or the lure of the presentation on CNPS's new iteration of Calscape, the February meeting surpassed that peak with over 70 attendees, about 25 of whom gathered around Lucy Ferneyhough and her team of plant keying experts Alex Hubner, Dillon Hadden, and Alexis Lafever-Jackson (with support by Grace Brieger) during the pre-meeting keying session. Many thanks to presenter Maya Argaman of the CNPS Horticulture Program and to the keying team!

Looking forward, the chapter is considering location and scheduling of general meetings. Chapter leaders want to accommodate members in all parts of the county with the opportunity to attend regular programming and social events, but there are many factors to consider. We have received member input in favor of several locations so stay tuned!

The chapter has been busy in the field as well. Field trips were enjoyed by many who were rewarded with early spring blooms thanks to our knowledgeable field trip leaders Lucy Ferneyhough, Grace Brieger, Deanna Giuliano, and Andy Werner. Mt. Madonna did not



Our chapter is partnering with the Museum of Natural History in their Spring Has Sprung month of events, including the March 7 "First Friday" event. Photo: Cara Wilcox



disappoint with its population of fetid adder's tongue (*Scoliopus bigelovii*) which was in full bloom.

Golden fairy lantern
(*Calochortus amabilis*)
Photo: Laurie Kiguchi

Fern-seekers in Fall Creek found 13 fern species growing there. Bonny Doon Ecological Preserve's Santa Cruz Sandhills habitat showcased its array of manzanita taxa (*Arctostaphylos* spp. and subsp.) along with other Sandhills endemics. The March Henry Cowell State Park field trip promises yet more fun with native plants, where hikers get the chance for a little cardio activity at plant-looker's snail pace. It remains to be seen how plants will respond to the patchwork of winter rains but there are always interesting plants and blooms to be seen on CNPS field trips!

Under the guidance of leader Linda Brodman, the habitat restoration team continued its ongoing efforts to tame the weeds and encourage the natives at parks and protected lands around the county. This lofty goal enticed volunteers to brave the weather on several workdays. We especially want to recognize Linda and the volunteers for their work with the City of Santa Cruz Water Department on the Sempervirens Fund's Lompico Headwaters French Broom Removal Event. Linda's coordination and support of the event was key to its success.

The chapter participated in several other outreach events. The CNPS propagation team was represented by Kari Olsen and Melinda Kralj who worked with Cabrillo Horticulture Department faculty Sarah Patiño Hulick and Nicky

Hughes and students in the Crop Production class in a lab transplanting over 500 spring blooming annuals.

A big thank you goes to the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History (santacruzmuseum.org) for inviting CNPS to partner on their Spring Has Sprung month of events in March. CNPS was featured at the March "First Friday" event as well as "Naturalist Night" with Peggy Edwards who presented her knowledge, experience, and artwork of the Santa Cruz Sandhills. We also participated in the "Saturdays in the Soil" effort. CNPS values its collaborations with the Museum and appreciates the opportunity to shine a light on native plants.

The chapter propagation and plant sale teams have been busy, busy, busy. This work goes on all year long with the current focus being the Spring Plant Sale on April 12. All plants are propagated by our propagation team, many from local seed sources. Proceeds go to support our chapter. Many thanks to the propagation team, led by Kari Olsen, for their expertise, time and dedication, and to Laura Parker, plant sale coordinator, and all who make these sales possible. We couldn't do it without them.

April is California Native Plant Month! Check out the website (cnps.org/celebrate) and social media for daily showcases of native plants and weekly infographics of ways to take action for native plants.

Explore our upcoming events listed on our new website at chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/. We hope you will join us!

—Laurie Kiguchi

Happy Spring! Fire-Safe Plants at Spring Plant Sale

April 12 Sale Promises Vibrant Garden Additions

Jackie Pascoe, text and photos

How happy we are for spring, for the Spring Plant Sale, and the gorgeous annuals, perennials, ferns, grasses, and shrubs that CNPS propagators have been growing all year.

Thinking about summer and fall, though, can raise concerns about wildfire. Even in suburban gardens, we are encouraged to use fewer and less fire-prone plants and to leave wider gaps between groups of plants. We nature-lovers want to create richer habitats than that. However, within these fire-wise restrictions, we can still enjoy gardening and support nature.

Many California native plants make great choices for a “fire-safe” garden. In the thirty-foot zone around the house, native annuals, perennials, grasses, and ferns (especially ones that hold onto moisture) are great options, along with some well-spaced, low-growing shrubs and, farther from the home, larger shrubs too.



Pink-flowering currant
(*Ribes sanguineum*)

experts recommend focusing on plant characteristics rather than trusting to plant lists, which can vary. Fire-prone shrubs tend to have fine twigs or shredding bark and/or oily or resinous small, narrow leaves, and may retain dry plant material.

Flowering currants (*Ribes* spp.) have many fire-resistant characteristics. They have clean woody stems that are easy to prune. Their stems and leaves hold onto moisture during summer and have low oil or resin content. Some other shrubs with similar characteristics are coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* spp.).



Lacy phacelia (*Phacelia tanacetifolia*)



Western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*)

of pea gravel over the seeded area can remind you where you have sown, as well as deter birds. You can also harvest and store some seeds in envelopes and sow them around February of the following year.

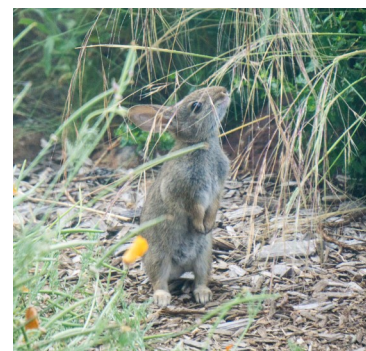
Among the “green and lean” perennials, geophytes are also happy to multiply from their underground storage organs. You can harvest bulblets after the plants die down and store them in paper bags for planting in late fall or early winter. Gophers do like tasty bulbs, but some are less attractive than others. *Allium unifolium*, *Dichelostemma ida-maia*, and *Triteleia* spp. are said to be less appetizing than *Brodiaea* and *Dipterostemon* species, for example. You can plant them in pots or in a gopher basket for extra protection.

Gophers generally leave native iris alone. After fall rains have generated new white roots, it's time to divide native iris that have formed large clumps. Dig up the clumps and divide the rhizomes so each has a leaf fan. Plant so that the crown is just visible along the soil surface—which means the leaf fan will not be upright. Blue-eyed grass, *Sisyrinchium bellum*, is a member of the iris family and can be divided also.

Perennial grasses such as purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*) can be used in a fire-safe garden, too, if cut back when they dry. Sedges (*Carex* spp.) tend to stay green year-round, as does California vanilla grass (*Anthoxanthum occidentale*), making them great choices.

Look for all these species and more at the Spring Plant Sale April 12!

Native annuals stay green and hydrated during their short season and support birds, small mammals, and insects. Many will reseed, so you can have more annuals year over year. *Eschscholzia californica*, *Clarkia* spp., *Phacelia tanacetifolia*, *Nemophila menziesii*, *Lupinus nanus*, and *Gilia tricolor* reseed well, given good growing conditions. Spreading a thin layer



A curious bunny checks out nodding needlegrass (*Stipa cernua*), similar to our state grass, purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*).

Habitat Restoration Projects

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

Location to be determined; call or email for information

Saturday, March 22, 2025 10 am to 1 pm
Saturday, March 29, 2025 10 am to 1 pm
Sunday, April 13, 2025 10 am to 1 pm
Saturday, April 19, 2025 10 am to 1 pm
Saturday, May 24, 2025 10 am to 1 pm

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 and bring something to drink along with lots of enthusiasm! We work rain or shine, but if things get particularly unpleasant, we call it a day. Tools provided; bring gloves.

Contact Restoration Program Leader Linda Brodman for questions: (831) 334-3858, or redwdrn@pacbell.net.



Ithuriel's spear (*Triteleia laxa*) is a member of the lily family. Easy to grow, it attracts many insects including bees and butterflies.

Photo: Jackie Pascoe

Chapter Board of Directors 2025

Elections for the Chapter Board for 2025-26 were held at the February General Meeting where members approved the proposed slate. The Board is looking forward to the new year, full of energy and ideas to support appreciation, knowledge, and protection of our California native plants and natural communities.

Many thanks to those who are changing positions or left the Board this past year. These include Sylvie Childress (resigned) and Karen Laing (resigned), both of whom have contributed many hours of service and support to the chapter in many ways. We are looking forward to their continued involvement with CNPS as their roles change.

A huge thank you goes to outgoing President Linda Brodman who carried the chapter through seven consecutive years in this role, successfully steering us through the COVID turmoil and out into the sunshine again. We are extremely fortunate that Linda continues to serve on the Board as Treasurer, Habitat Restoration Leader, and Leadership Development. She has been a true special status species for the chapter leadership.

Chapter Board 2025-26

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Corresponding Secretary

Chapter Council Delegate
Conservation/Rare Plants
Field Trips
Leadership Development

Newsletter
Plant Sales
Propagation
Publicity

Habitat Restoration
Website
Member at Large

Laurie Kiguchi
Open
Linda Brodman
Steve McCabe
Mona McCabe
Lucy Ferneyhough
Mark Bibbo
Grace Brieger
Linda Brodman
Julia Davenport
Laurie Kiguchi
Julia Davenport
Laura Parker
Kari Olsen
Mona McCabe
Steve McCabe
Linda Brodman
Judith Connor
Suzanne Schettler



Our chapter's habitat restoration team and the City of Santa Cruz Water Department joined up with the Sempervirens Fund for a weed-pull on their land in the Lompico watershed. Target species: French broom. (*Genista monspessulana*). Photo: Chris Berry

Wildflowers-In-Waiting



Wart-leaf ceanothus (*Ceanothus papillosus*)

Photo: Jackie Pascoe

No matter the year, there are always wildflowers and interesting plants to be found, with each year bringing a different array. April and May are the peak months for many blooms in our area.

While the earliest harbingers of spring are going to seed, the next

wave of bloomers like western columbine (*Aquilegia formosa*), shooting stars (*Primula* spp.), and California lilacs (*Ceanothus* spp.) are approaching their peak, with many more to come. It may not be a super bloom year but it will be super in its own way.

Plants For Your Garden

—Kari Olsen, text and photos

The April 12 Spring Plant Sale features our largest selection of spring-blooming annuals ever, as well as the most species grown from locally sourced seeds!



In spring 2023 my new favorite annual was bird's eye gilia (*Gilia tricolor*) with its many flowers of lavender-tipped petals and fascinating blue pollen. But in 2024 I grew California gilia, (*Gilia achilleifolia*) for the

first time and found my newest favorite annual! This plant transformed from an undersized leftover plant from last year's sale into a blooming beauty surrounded by ever-larger sprays of lavender flowers. Both species flowered non-stop until mid-summer when I stopped watering. You can find both these gilia species growing in the wild at Mt Madonna County Park.

Choosing a favorite native grass would be the same as asking me to pick my favorite cat – I love them all! One in particular is tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). When in bloom, the delicate nature of its flowers is beautiful. The vegetative “bunch” stays low (thus the “tufted” part of the name) but flower spikes rise far above and shimmer with a silvery tone with every puff of air. The plants are from locally sourced seed.



Bee Here!

Bee on the lookout for our new website!

Check it out at chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/

Red-flowered buckwheat (*Eriogonum grande* var. *rubescens*).

Photo: Joe Bonanno



In February, field trip leader Deanna Giuliano led a group of fern enthusiasts on a loop in the Fall Creek Unit of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Less than four miles of hiking introduced us to 13 fern species including this wall of five finger fern (*Adiantum aleuticum*).

Photo: Kari Olsen

Field Trips

CNPS has created a guide to help minimize weed seed dispersal and plant diseases during hikes and field trips.

Look for detailed information at:

Cleanliness Tips for Hikers: <https://bit.ly/4irmPCj>.

Download the Pocket Guide at:

<https://bit.ly/4irdII5>

Franklin Pt/White House Creek with Lucy Ferneyhough, Saturday, April 19, 10 a.m.

The hike begins at the South Whitehouse Creek Trail, approximately 21 miles from Santa Cruz City limits. For carpooling, meet on the Almar Ave. side of the Westside Safeway parking lot at 9:30 a.m. Email Lucy for more information, lferneyh@ucsc.edu

Field Trip to Calero Park with Andy Werner, Tuesday, April 22, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join Andy Werner on a hike up to one of the nicest serpentine loops and wildflower displays in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Some steep climbs on this hike, but worth it. Elevation change ~1000 feet, and distance about 6.1 miles. We will hike at a moderate pace. Meet at the Main Entrance of Calero Park at 9:30 a.m. From Santa Cruz take Hwy 17 to Hwy 85 to Hwy 101 and exit at Bailey Ave. Take Bailey to McKean Rd. and turn left at the stop sign. Half a mile down the road turn right into the park entrance. Meet at the gravel parking lot by park headquarters. Bring lunch, water, and a hiking pole. We should be back to the cars by 2 p.m. Limit 10 people, no dogs. Sign up or questions: apwerner44@gmail.com.

Fort Ord Wildflowers and *Quercus palmeri* with Andy Werner, Tuesday, April 29, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join Andy Werner on a foray to see the wildflower diversity and beautiful displays in this local gem. We will also see the rare (in our locale) *Q. palmeri*. One member of this species is the known as the Jurupa Oak. Probably the oldest plant in California.

The hike is 5-6 miles long, some hills, but not strenuous and the pace will be moderate. Bring lunch. We meet at the Fort Ord Creekside Entrance. From Santa Cruz take Hwy 1 to Marina and Reservation Rd exit. Turn L at the stop sign and R at the second signal, go past Walmart and Paddon pond on your left. Stay on Reservation Rd through Marina to just before Hwy 68 intersection. Turn R onto Portola, turn R just after the Monument sign onto the entry road. Go to the locked gate and turn L into the dirt parking lot. Bring water, limit 12 people, no dogs. Contact Andy for signups and information: apwerner44@gmail.com

California Native Plant Society
Santa Cruz County Chapter
P.O. Box 1622
Santa Cruz, CA 95061
Address Service Requested



First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Santa Cruz CA
Permit # 200

Hiking • Propagation • Plant Keying • Conservation • Habitat Restoration • Field Trips • Herbarium Work • Talks

General Meeting

Monday, April 7, 2025

Speaker Mark Bibbo
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History
1305 East Cliff Dr.
Keying Session 6 p.m.
General Meeting 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars!

Next General Meeting

Monday June 9, 2025

UCSC Arboretum

Check out our NEW website
for updates:
chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/



Mark Bibbo. Photo: Nikki Nedeff

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 *The Cypress Cone* Santa Cruz County Chapter newsletter.

Already a member? Update your profile at cnps.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Chapter affiliation: Santa Cruz County Chapter

Second chapter _____

Individual Membership (suggested amounts):

____ \$25 ____ \$50 ____ \$120
____ \$500 ____ \$1000 ____ New member ____ Renewal

Organizational Membership Levels

____ Intl. or Library \$75
____ Blue Oak \$150 (up to three employees)
____ Gray Pine \$500 (up to six employees)
____ White Fir \$1000 (up to ten employees)

Join online for credit card payment at cnps.org/membership.
Or use this form and make your check payable to CNPS and send to: California Native Plant Society, Attn: Membership, 2707 K Street, Suite 1, Sacramento, CA 95816-5130.

Like us on Facebook

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 annng@calcentral.com or log onto your CNPS account at the state website (cnps.org) to switch.

CNPS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of California native flora

CNPS has 36 chapters throughout the state. 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 to the chapter are tax-deductible and support locally special projects such as outreach, education, 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.

Visit our new Website: chapters.cnps.org/santacruz/.
For inquiries email: info@cnps.org.